

# Bavarian News

Vol. 2 Nr. 6

Grafenwoehr, Hohenfels and Vilseck

March 22, 2006

## Use common-sense approach with dead birds

### Human Cases: Summary of Current Situation

Since January, 2004 WHO has reported human cases of avian influenza A (H5N1) in the following countries:

**East Asia and the Pacific:** Cambodia  
China  
Indonesia  
Thailand  
Vietnam

**Europe & Eurasia:** Turkey

**Near East:** Iraq

For additional information about these reports, visit [http://www.who.int/csr/disease/avian\\_influenza/updates/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/csr/disease/avian_influenza/updates/en/index.html)

Graphic courtesy of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
Updated February 8, 2006

## To date, avian flu not serious threat to personnel

### 100th Medical Detachment

Veterinary Services

Birds die all the time, so it is not unusual to find dead carcasses of birds where you live, work, or play. But during this year's cold and flu season, you may want to pay special attention to how you handle dead birds. The experts' advice – Don't!

### Why are birds getting sick?

Pick up any paper and you will see the latest story about where the newest influen-

za virus is striking birds. Yes, birds get the flu. Avian influenza viruses that naturally occur among birds cause avian flu, or bird flu. This year there is a particularly nasty virus strain, H5N1. It started in Asia, is now in Europe, and is expected to travel on to the U.S. Why? Because birds migrate. As they move about the world, they come in contact with other birds.

Just like humans, birds get the flu; they die if it is a particularly lethal strain of flu.

**Is it a threat?** It is important to understand that avian influenza is a bird disease that has agricultural and economic importance for countries that must destroy infected birds. Just consider if you raised chickens for a living and had to destroy your entire flock.

To date, the virus is not a threat to the health of the U. S. military or the population in Europe. It is still very difficult for humans to get this disease.

See **Contact**, page 16

## ACS job fair slated March 29 in Vilseck

by KATHY JORDAN

Staff writer

Job seekers in the U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr communities can enjoy one-stop shopping March 29.

Army Community Services will conduct a job at Vilseck's Family Readiness Center/Army Family Team Building office, Bldg. 273.

Various agencies will offer job search in numerous cubicles throughout the facility.

"Many people will have the opportunity to search for jobs and apply online," said employment specialist Susan Roberts.

This is a great opportunity to learn about jobs in the local community and to interact with potential employers, said Roberts.

"It is difficult to find jobs in Europe," she said. "I am hoping this job fair will give the community a chance to come in and meet company representatives, different employers, and agencies."

Participants should bring a current resume to the job fair and "be prepared to receive a lot of information," said Roberts. "It will definitely be a chance to ask questions and become more familiar with the agencies."

ACS offers resume writing and job search assistance year-round. ACS also offers networking and Resumix assistance for appropriated funds jobs.

Roberts, who assists customers with resume writing, said one of the most common errors she sees is spelling and grammatical errors. She said another common mistake is not being specific about previous jobs.

"They do not really explain in detail what jobs they have done," she said. "For example, if a person says they were a cashier and took people's money, that really does not tell you much."

See **March 29**, page 16

### Agencies scheduled to participate in the job fair include:

Appropriated and Non-appropriated funds  
Contracting Office  
Defense Commissary Agency  
AAFES  
ACAP University of Phoenix  
ACS volunteer coordinator



Garrison Commander Col. Brian Boyle chatted with parents after the March 9 community meeting.

## Schools, Netzaberg topic of meeting

Story and photo by ADRIANE FOSS

Bavarian News editor

More than 50 concerned parents and residents turned out for the March 9 community meeting at the Vilseck chapel to get answers about changes that the garrison schools are undergoing.

Garrison Grafenwoehr Commander Col. Brian Boyle kicked off the meeting with an official announcement that seventh and eighth graders from Vilseck Middle/High School and sixth graders from Vilseck Elementary will attend a new temporary middle school in Grafenwoehr beginning in August.

The \$4 million "learning cottages" will be located on the softball field across from the post headquarters building.

For families living in or near Vilseck, this means their middle school students – many of whom walk or ride short distances to school – will be bussed longer distances to Grafenwoehr.

Many families of middle school students living in or near Grafenwoehr, however, will experience much shorter bus rides when the temporary school opens at the start of the new school year.

Boyle said he understood that some families may not be happy with the decision and explained that the ultimate goal was to sat-

isfy the needs of the whole community.

The garrison population is expected to increase by more than 3,000 with the arrival of the Stryker Brigade Combat Team 2 in the fall. The arrival of several other units over the next few years will boost the population by up to 4,000 more personnel.

See **Population**, page 16



Courtesy photo

The \$4 million temporary "learning cottages" will be located at the softball field near Grafenwoehr's post headquarters building.

## VA center helps veteran entrepreneurs



Scott F. Denniston (left), director of the Veterans Affairs Center – part of the Department of Veterans Affairs – chats with Danny M. Cobb, who opened his new company, Meridian Solutions, in Frederick, Md., last month. The conversation took place March 15 during the center's fifth anniversary celebration at Veterans Affairs headquarters in Washington, D.C.

Story and photo by RUDI WILLIAMS  
American Forces Press Service

The organization that helps veterans become entrepreneurs by hooking them up with national franchises and contracts with industry and the federal government celebrated its fifth anniversary March 14 with an open house at the Department of Veterans Affairs in Washington, D.C.

The Center for Veterans Enterprise has helped hundreds of veteran entrepreneurs set up their businesses or swell their company's coffers. Hundreds more have been helped to compete in the federal and private sector marketplace since the center was created five years ago.

The law that led to the center's creation – the Veterans Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development Act of 1999 – was well intentioned, but it had a void concerning entrepreneurial programs for veterans, said Scott F.

Denniston, the center's director. The law calls for 3 percent of federal contracts to be given to veteran-owned businesses.

"There was a void having to do with who was going to help veteran- and service-disabled-veteran-owned businesses break into the federal marketplace as part of the 3 percent goal," Denniston said during an interview at the open house. "We knew how to do federal contracting, because VA is one of the largest buyers of goods and services in the government. We're one of the largest buyers from the standpoint of not only dollars, but of actions and the breadth of products and services we buy."

Based on that expertise, VA decided to set up the Center for Veterans Enterprise, aimed at helping veterans break into the federal marketplace, Denniston said.

See **Statistics**, page 16

## New Bavarian News editor takes the reins

Foss joins USAG Graf from Fort Knox

Bavarian News staff report

The Bavarian News has a new staff member. Adriane Foss, a native of New Bern, N.C., has assumed the duties of newspaper editor.

Foss, who previously served as the Fort Knox community relations officer, began her career in journalism more than 10 years ago.

Before joining the Army, Foss worked as a freelance reporter for the New Bern Sun Journal while attending Craven Community College. She joined the Army in 1996.

She served as the sole U.S. photojournalist for the Indianhead, the newspaper of the 2nd Infantry Division in Korea.

She also served as a general assignments reporter and photographer before becoming the (Soldier, and later GS civilian) associate editor for Fort Knox's Turret newspaper.

See **Newest staff**, page 16



Foss



# Q&A

## What do you miss most about the U.S.?



**Staff Sgt. Earl Gittens**

"I like being over in Germany. As far as missing anything, I expected it not to be here. That's why I go on vacation."

**Maxine Maloney**

"I miss the Smithsonian Museums and the multi-cultural things that D.C. has to offer, like the different restaurants and clubs. And of course, I miss the shopping!"



**Capt. Stan Clark**

"My wife and I miss going out to restaurants like Red Lobster, Black Angus, and Olive Garden. Matter of fact, we're planning a date when we get back of a dinner out and then miniature golfing."

**Andrew Snoddy**

"I miss family. It's not economically feasible to go back and forth."



**Spc. Daniel Sherwin**

"I miss family and being able to go to American punk rock shows."

**Sgt. 1st Class Keith Baskerville**

"Wal-Mart. And four different seasons. Winters here are too long. And cable TV."



**Kat Watson**

"My family and Southern hospitality, like the old-fashioned country 'hello.'"

**Cristina Salvador**

"Being able to order food in a restaurant and having people understand what I mean. And shopping and convenience, of course."



Interview and photos by Shannon Hill

## Commentary

# 'Thoughts while moving around'

## "School delay/closures, activity in and around Gate 1, Welcome Home Fest

It is hard to believe another two weeks have gone by and another column is due. We thought that the snow was finally gone, but it looks like it will hang on until the bitter end. With winter safety in mind – right into the column this week.

**School Delay/ Closures.** I have been told that not everyone is getting the word on school delay and closures so I thought I would explain the process again. We work in close cooperation with DES and the school principals to decide if we should close or delay a school the night prior to the closing/delay.

I make that decision in Grafenwoehr/Vilseck, and Lt. Col. Matheson makes that decision in Hohenfels. Part of the notification process includes the Installation Operations Center, which will notify the American Forces Network.

AFN morning show personnel receive the notice when they arrive for work at 5 a.m. They have agreed to announce the delays/closures in via radio in 15-minute increments at the following times:

6 a.m.  
6:15 a.m.  
6:30 a.m.  
6:45 a.m.  
7 a.m.  
7:15 a.m.  
7:30 a.m.

In addition to these regularly scheduled times, closure/delays will be broadcast in between those times as part of the normal radio programming. The only exception to this schedule is during AFN's regular news announcements, which take place at the top of every hour. This means that at exactly 6 a.m. and 7 a.m., you may not hear the closure/delay announcement, but it will immediately follow the top-of-the-hour news.

AFN Bavaria can now get information out to more people in the community. Households



**Col. Boyle**

with decoders in the USAG-Grafenwoehr and Hohenfels areas can tune into Channel 17 to see AFN spots and look for crawls listing school delays and closures. Households with cable can continue to watch AFN Atlantic to watch Bavaria's products.

Please note that if you do not hear any announcements, school is open. AFN will make announcements only if there is a delay or closure. AFN will broadcast announcements on 1107 AM. U.S. channeled radios, which are only even numbered, may receive AFN more clearly on 1110 AM.

Many people have asked about the Command Information Channel, or CIC, and the phone number 09641-83-ROAD / DSN 475-7623. I am not allowed to put the CIC into private rental homes, and it is expensive to put CIC into all of the build-to-lease homes.

As units inactivate in U.S. Army Europe, we are obtaining these installation packets. The packets include CIC, and we are putting them into the build-to-lease homes.

See **AFN**, page 16

## Self assessment survey available through Sunday

The U.S. Army Garrison-Grafenwoehr welcomes you to participate in the first Organizational Self Assessment using a Web-based survey.

The purpose of this assessment is to gauge the strengths and weaknesses of this organization in accordance with Army Performance Improvement Criteria, or APIC.

More specifically, this assessment gauges our perceptions of where we stand versus those criteria.

I ask that you take the survey, which is available through Sunday, and give your honest

and sincere feedback. You will be notified by e-mail and provided a link to the survey site.

Many of you who are unfamiliar with APIC concepts and terminology may find some of the questions difficult to answer. Do your best with this initial survey and, above all, be candid.

The survey will be conducted annually, and as our familiarity with APIC improves, so will the quality of the survey results.

In any case, I assure you that I will carefully review the feedback results and give serious consideration to implementing the

improvements that you recommend.

Let me assure you that this survey is set up to be anonymous. Your individual ratings and comments will remain strictly confidential.

Thank you for taking the survey.

**USAG-Grafenwoehr "Always Quality Service!"**

**Col. Brian T. Boyle**  
Commander, USAG Grafenwoehr

# Soldier deaths prompt new safety campaigns

## All personnel urged to keep guard up during most dangerous time of year

**General David McKiernan**  
USAREUR Commander

Two of our Soldiers were killed last month in tragic accidents. One was a noncommissioned officer who died when he lost control of his motorcycle on a curve and slid into an oncoming car. He was an experienced rider and was properly licensed and trained to ride a motorcycle. He also had more than 20 years of riding experience and was known as a mentor and teacher of less-experienced riders.

The other had just returned from Afghanistan and was killed when struck by a freight train. He and another Soldier were hit after visiting local drinking establishments.

In addition, two of our Apache helicopters were damaged in accidents. Fortunately the pilots were not seriously injured, but the multimillion dollar damage is a tremendous loss of warfighting assets.

Each of these four accidents is different in nature, but what is common across all is loss of combat power.

The Army recently recognized USAREUR as a leader in accident reduction, but as we begin what is historically our most dangerous time of year, we

are letting down our guard. We must take action now to prevent losing any more of our most precious assets – our Soldiers.

In a deliberate effort to save lives, I am releasing two safety campaigns this month:

• **The Army in Europe Summer 2006 Lifesaving Campaign.** This campaign has been expanded beyond the scope of our previous summer safety campaigns to target the broad range of issues our Soldiers face. In addition to traditional safety subjects, it includes Soldier wellness issues, such as high-risk drinking and suicide.

• **The Army in Europe Motorcycle Safety Campaign.** This campaign targets motorcycle-related deaths and injuries. It also emphasizes the dangers of riding motorcycles and implements a composite risk management approach to managing these dangers.

Both campaigns need your support. Get involved in these campaigns and see where you can make a difference.

In addition, continue to counsel junior Soldiers and leaders and help them make good safety decisions. Also continue to look out for one another, use the buddy system, and mentor those around you.

This is chain of command leader business, and our NCOs, as always, are our biggest factor in enforcing standards.

Together we can and must make this summer a safe one. No Loss of Life continues to be our goal.

We can achieve this goal by watching out for one another and by taking action to prevent future tragedies.



**Gen. McKiernan**

## Want something in the Bavarian News? Here's how

### Bavarian News staff report

The Bavarian News is your community newspaper. As such, we welcome your input.

We are devoted to making this publication one of the most accurate, informative, and credible newspapers throughout the Department of Defense.

As family members, civilians, contractors, and service members, you deserve the most complete coverage available. In order to provide this coverage, we rely on you – our readers – to keep us informed about the activities of your organizations, units, schools, and neighborhoods.

We welcome your story ideas, feedback, and submissions. I say submissions because despite our desire to publish what's most important to you, it is impossible for us to cover every event.

So, in order to help you to help us, we have provided the following simple guidelines:

\* Story ideas, feedback, and submissions can be submitted directly to the editor, Adriane Foss, at [adriane.foss@us.army.mil](mailto:adriane.foss@us.army.mil), or by calling CIV 09641-83-7113 / DSN 475-7113. Please include contact information so that we can reach you. If you are submitting ideas, state why you think the topic is important to our readership.

### Copy preparation:

\* Items should be double-spaced and typed in upper and lowercase letters (not all capital letters).

\* If submitting electronically, submit in Word.

\* Use civilian-style dates, times, and street addresses. If a facility has not street name, use the abbreviation "Bldg." and the number.

\* Always include first names when identifying individuals. Don't use courtesy titles such as Mr., Miss., Mrs., or Ms. After using a person's full name, all references to that person thereafter should be by last name only, regardless of rank or position of authority.

See **Here's how**, page 4

# Bavarian News

Grafenwoehr • Hohenfels • Vilseck

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# Improve communication skills, intimacy with PREP

by **KATHY JORDAN**  
Staff writer

One of the most commonly cited reasons for divorce is lack of communication. For many partners, finding the right thing to do or say can be difficult, even uncomfortable.

But for those who are willing to give it a try, there is hope.

The Prevention and Relationship Enhancement Program is a research based approach that teaches couples how to communicate effectively, resolving conflicts, and increase friendship and intimacy.

Grafenwoehr Family Life Chaplain Maj. Jay Hearn, who offers the one-day course to all valid ID card holders, said that communication is the key to

any strong marriage.

“When many couples come to me and I ask them why they came to see me, they often say they are having communication problems,” he said. “This course looks at some of the danger signs in a marriage and teaches couples how to avoid them. We also teach couples about the speaker-listener technique so when one of them speaks, the other one pays attention.”

During PREP, couples are taught communication techniques and practice what they have learned during the class, which lasts from 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. and includes a free catered lunch.

Topics covered during the day-long instruction include:

### Upcoming classes:

April 6 • May 4 • June 7  
Location: Vilseck Chapel

- Dealing with hidden issues
  - Resolving difficult situations
  - Having fun as a couple
- And taking the course is practically a win-win situation because simply spending the course time together has its benefits, said Hearn.
- “Just by taking the time it takes to do this course or go on a retreat, says to your spouse I love you and I want to invest a part of my time with you,” he said.
- Although it focuses on relationship

improvement, the course is not considered counseling.

“I tell everybody that this is not group counseling,” said Hearn. I give everybody my name and number and let them know if they want to do group counseling they can talk to me later.

“This is a one-day course for prevention, skill building, and improving your marriage. If you want (individual) marriage counseling,” said Hearn, “the three of us can do that in my office.”

Vilseck’s first class was offered earlier this month but no couples signed up for the sessions.

“I think people are very busy,” explained Hearn. “It could be that these

are all duty days or people’s spouses may be working.”

While there could be several different reasons for the no-show, Hearn said one thing is for sure – the courses are a great way to boost Soldier morale and productivity.

“Senior leaders need to realize that giving a Soldier who may be having difficulties a day off to come to the course may prevent long term problems,” said Hearn. “They will have fewer problems at work and be more productive if things are squared away at home.”

To register or for more information on PREP, relationship counseling, or upcoming marriage retreats, call 09662-83-3276 or DSN 476-3276.

## VMHS helping students deal with deployment issues

by **KATHY JORDAN**  
Staff writer

Parent-child separation during deployments can wreak havoc on young minds.

The faculty and staff at Vilseck Middle/High School realize this and have launched an in-school counseling group to help kids deal with deployment issues.

“This group is basically about students getting together on a weekly basis, voluntarily, to talk about concerns or issues that they are having with one or both of their parents out of the house,” said Vilseck Middle/High School Psychologist Michael Priser, who is heading the program.

Previous deployment youth groups for the middle/high school have had mixed success for several reasons, he said.

“Trying to find the time to do it was difficult,” said Priser. “I had to try to figure out the best time to do this without taking away from students academic courses. I have a list of kids, but they don’t all take the same classes together.”

“If we met during class period, some kids would miss class,” he said. “They would probably miss 20 percent of their class, and that is a lot of time out of class.”

Priser said meeting after school has not worked well “because you have to have an activity you are doing to ride the activity bus. So I am trying it during lunch period.”

Participants can bring their lunch to the meetings, which will be in what used to serve as the girls’ locker room. And Priser knows he’s got some pretty stiff competition.

“Lunch is an important social time for kids,” he said. “That is the time when they can be with their friends and talk and share things.”

“I am fighting against another important social aspect of middle and high school. We’ll try it and see. I am going to give it a couple of shots,” said Priser.

And the group is not just for students who are having a hard time coping with the deployment separation. Priser said he hopes students who are dealing well with deployments will also attend.

“This is probably not their first deployment,” he said. “I would like them to come in and maybe help other students. They can share some things that worked well for them.”

Priser said he hopes that the peer-to-peer exchange will help all the students.

“If things are going well for some of the students, I would like them to share some of that with the others,” he said. “I don’t want to single kids out and say their mother or father is deployed and they are having problems.”

Priser knows the group is no magic cure for what can be a very difficult time in a child’s life, but he said he hopes the group will make coping with the separation a little easier.

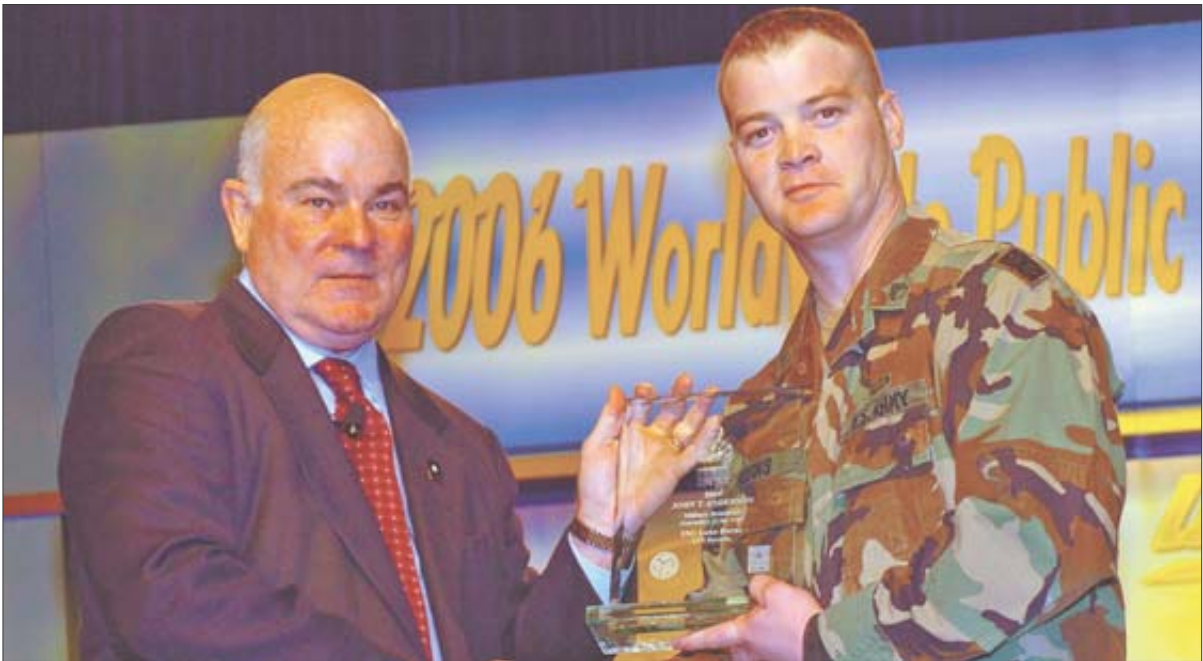
“I hope the kids that are having problems with adjustments or concerns will at least be able to talk about it, express it, and then pick up some ideas on how to handle it.”

The first group meeting was scheduled for March 10 but none of the 19 students who signed up for the group attended.

Priser said if only a few students are interested in participating, he will likely forego the group meetings and schedule time with the individual students in his office.

“It’s really finding out if there is a need for the service,” said Priser. “I will be available for all meetings. My question now is will they be.”

The group will meet every Friday until spring break. For more information, call DSN 476-2554/2864.



Courtesy photo

**Secretary of the Army Francis Harvey presents AFN-Bavaria’s Staff Sgt. Luke Burns the John T. Anderson Military Broadcast Journalist of the Year Award March 7 in Vienna, Va.**

# Local Soldier tagged DA broadcaster of year

## Award competition is ‘Superbowl’ of Army journalism

by **Sgt. 1st Class MARCIA TRIGGS**  
Special to the Bavarian News

No, he didn’t receive an Academy Award.

But AFN Bavaria’s former morning disc jockey, Staff Sgt. Luke Burns, accepted an award just as prestigious in the world of Army broadcasters.

Secretary of the Army Francis Harvey presented Burns with the John T. Anderson Military Broadcast Journalist of the Year Award March 7 in Vienna, Va.

“These outstanding Army journalists have clearly made significant contributions,” Harvey said, “and the Army is better because of their individual efforts.”

Wherever there are Soldiers, usually there are public affairs specialists – military or civilian – whose purpose is to tell the Army’s story. Burns’ award is in honor of Master Sgt. John T. Anderson, an Army broadcaster who was a prisoner of war for five years during the Viet Nam War. To

this day, Army print and broadcast journalists have deployed and participated in every major operation.

“We are everywhere,” said Burns after meeting hundreds of others in his career field. “There’s a lot that goes into what we do as we try to make sure the world knows what our Soldiers are doing.”

Burns is most well known by the U.S. Army Garrison-Grafenwoehr community for his “Luke and Valentine” morning radio show. The clever commercials that promoted the show and the co-narration of a live radio information show during the 1st Armored Division Welcome Home Ceremony, outlining the Big Red One’s achievements in Iraq, set him apart from his peers.

“Receiving such a premium award was an honor,” said Burns, “but it also gives me more credibility when I’m mentoring junior Soldiers on the best way to do our job.”

Burns’ award-winning quest will continue as he competes for the Department of Defense Thomas Jefferson Military Broadcaster of the Year award. He will also grab the AFN mike once again beginning March 24 to host the “Big Gun” morning radio show.

Last year proved to be an excellent year for AFN Bavaria, which nabbed regional, major command, and Army-level awards. Sean Patrick, the current morning radio show host, was named the Civilian Broadcaster of the Year at the MACOM level, and Spc. Kimberly Williams, the “Afternoon Mix” radio show DJ, was a co-winner of the MACOM Rising Star award.

Below are the entries AFN Bavaria won at the Army level. All first place entries will advance to the DoD competition for judging.

- **Television Spot – 1st and 2nd Place**
- **Local Television Newscast – 1st Place**
- **Command Information Plan – 1st Place**

## New plates help USAREUR vehicles blend in

**USAREUR Public Affairs**

There are more than six billion people on the planet, but Americans in Europe seem to stand out more than most – in dress, in speech, and in the vehicles they drive. That “standout” factor can make Americans easy targets for terrorists to spot.

U.S. Army Europe’s vehicle registration division is working to lower the profile of American vehicles here by replacing U.S. forces license plates with standard German plates. But experts point out that in some cases changing the plates is just the first step.

“The desired reduced profile will be enhanced if items such as bumper stickers, (Department of Defense) vehicle decals from previous assignments, dealership stickers, unit or association affiliation stickers or anything else that would tend to identify the automobile as obviously belonging to an American are removed from the vehicle,” said Don Grosz, deputy chief of USAREUR’s G-3 antiterrorism division.

While recent events could increase anti-American sentiments among the extremist population in USAREUR host-nation countries, they do not represent a specific threat to DoD personnel, said Grosz. However, it is still important to maintain

vigilance and situational awareness at all times and practice individual security awareness, he said.

USAREUR’s vehicle registration division began issuing the new plates in December and will continue phasing them in over the next two years.

“The feedback we have gotten has been positive,” said Tom Lorenzini, the USAREUR vehicle registrar. “In some communities we have waiting lists of people who want to get the German license plates.”

One Heidelberg community member said he and most of his friends have wanted German plates for their vehicles for quite some time.

“I’m very happy to finally have these. It’s good to be able to blend in,” said Sam Monroe, a Defense Logistics Agency supply specialist, as he attached a German plate to the front of his vehicle. “Having that big ‘USA’ on my car always made me a bit uncomfort-

able, especially after the events of the last couple of years.”

To obtain the new plates, visit your local vehicle registration office and re-register your vehicle. You will be required to turn in your current U.S. forces plates.

For more information on the license plate changeover, contact your local vehicle registration office.



Photo by Spc. Matthias Chiroux

**Sam Monroe, a Defense Logistics Agency supply specialist, affixes a new German license plate to the rear of his vehicle March 1 in Heidelberg, Germany.**



HERE'S HOW

From page 2

Deadlines for submission:

\* Articles – Mondays – nine days before publication – by 3 p.m. The Bavarian News is a biweekly (published every two weeks) tabloid that is distributed on Wednesdays. The next issue will come out on April 5. That means submissions must be in by Monday, April 27. In order to fulfill our contractual obligations, we must meet the deadlines of our civilian enterprise publisher.

\* News Briefs – Tuesdays – eight days before publication – by 5 p.m.

\* Photos – Tuesdays – eight days before publication – by noon.

\* Flyers, public service announcements – Wednesdays – seven days before publication–by 5 p.m. The use of flyers is based on available space. Their use is never guaranteed. A typewritten summary of the information contained in the flyer should also be submitted for use as a news brief in case the flyer cannot be used.

Types of stories needed:

\* If you want to write a story,

e-mail or call the editor (see above) prior to writing it. The editor will discuss the idea with you and may suggest an angle more suited to the paper's needs.

\* The Bavarian News is interested in stories about people–how they do their jobs, their hobbies, their families, their traditions, their plans–any aspects that readers would find interesting. Training and Transformation are important to Garrison Grafenwoehr, but the people who develop training and live the transformation are more interesting to our readers.

\* If you want the Bavarian News to cover a story, let us know. The staff is always interested in story ideas.

\* The 7th Army Joint Multinational Training Command has its own public affairs personnel. Those from that organization should call the JMTC section at CIV 09641-83-6287 or DSN 475-6287 before calling the Bavarian News.

\* Even when the Bavarian News staff cannot cover an event, write-ups and photos of the event from outside sources are welcome. Be sure to attach the name and phone number of

someone who'll serve as a source of information.

\* The Bavarian News does not send reporters to cover most parties, dinners, dances, teas, club or organization elections, most award presentations, promotions, or check presentations. Army Regulation 360-81, which governs the operation of DA newspapers, points out that covering such events is not the function of the command information newspaper or the Public Affairs Office.

The staff is interested in doing stories on why a person earned an award, or why a check is being presented.

The paper will print the results of elections, or lists of award winners, when submitted.

\* Should a story, photo, or news brief that you submitted not appear in the Bavarian News, it will likely run in the following week's edition, if appropriate. To obtain information on why something didn't run, call or contact the editor (see above).

Photos:

\* The Bavarian News staff uses jpg digital format photos for all its photo requirements, and prefers all submissions to be in this form, but

will accept 35mm color prints.

\* If you don't have a color print, submit whatever photo you have the editor will look it over.

\* If you need advice on shooting photos for the paper, contact us.

\* Upon request, photos and negatives used by the Bavarian News will be returned. Allow one week for the return of the items from the printer.

Editing and style:

\* All submissions to the Bavarian News become the property of the Bavarian News. Due to copy-editing procedures, we cannot return stories. Be sure to save or copy the submission before sending it to our office.

\* The Bavarian News reserves the right to edit items submitted to the paper for printing.

\* The Bavarian News uses Associated Press style, the same as all major U.S. and international civilian newspapers. It's also the style used by TRADOC News Service, Army News Service, and DoD's American Forces Press Service.

\* The Bavarian News adheres to AP style for military rank.

Stringers:

\* These are volunteer representa-

tives who want to write about the goings-on in the various post units, organizations, schools, housing areas, and directorates. We provide the byline, and the volunteer earns instant recognition.

\* Unit commanders who want information on setting up stringers, or individuals who want to volunteer should call CIV 09641-83-7113 / DSN 475-7113.

Corrections:

\* Verified errors will be corrected, along with a brief explanation of why they were made, in the next edition of the Bavarian News.

\* Corrections will generally run in the news briefs section of the paper.

Complaints or comments:

\* If you have complaints, comments, or questions about something that appeared in the Bavarian News, or about the paper in general, contact the editor at CIV 09641-83-7113 / DSN 475-7113.

Address:

Our mailing address is the Bavarian News, Public Affairs Office, Bldg. 234, Unit 28130, APO AE 09114. The Fax number is CIV 09641-83-7935 / DSN 475-7935. E-mail is [adriane.foss@us.army.mil](mailto:adriane.foss@us.army.mil).



Sgt. Maria Shadrova, HHC, 2nd Bn., 501st Aviation Brigade, Hanau, Germany, leads the way as senior instructor Dmitry Miller, Russian Ground Forces, follows closely behind during a situational training exercise at Grafenwoehr Training Area March 7.

Photo by Paula Guzman

Russian, U.S. Soldiers train together during NCOA Warrior Leader Course

7th U.S. Army JMTC Public Affairs

March 10 marked a significant event for the 7th Army Noncommissioned Officer's Academy when 228 U.S. Soldiers and 6 Russian Soldiers from the 04-06 class of the Warrior Leader Course walked across the stage at the Tower Theatre in Grafenwoehr, Germany, to accept their Department of the Army Certificate of Achievement awards.

"Any time we can train from the multinational aspect is a tremendous plus with the multitude of missions Soldiers face each and everyday," said Command Sgt. Maj. William L. Ellenburg, command sergeant major, 7th U.S. Army Joint Multinational Training Command. "It allows us to understand each other before we have to come together for the first time in a hostile environment," he said.

U.S. Soldiers have made a definite connection with all the international students who have graduated from the 7th Army NCO Academy.

"As we move forward on the common goal to win this war on terrorism, it is important that we respect and understand each other as coalition teams," Ellenburg said. "It is remarkable to witness our Soldiers and those of other nations bond in our Academy as they train side-by-side to fight together," he said.

Master Sgt. Conrad Montoya, Plans and Operations, U.S. Army, Europe, said the Russian Soldiers did an excellent job during the Warrior Leader Course.

"Despite the language barriers, the Russian Soldiers accomplished all tasks," said 1st Sgt. Barrington G. Ricketts, 7th Army NCOA. "In fact, they brought battle proven techniques to the classroom that were very useful to U.S. students because the information provided them with a firsthand look of the lessons-learned from the Russians experience on-the-ground in Afghanistan," he said.

Senior Instructor Dmitry Miller, Russian



Photo by Paula Guzman

Senior instructor Dmitry Miller, Russian Ground Forces (left), and Spc. Pacheco Fontanez, 7th Corps Support Groups, Bamberg, Germany, train together with DARWARS while attending the Warrior Leaders Course. DARWARS is a computerized videogame designed to give soldiers a realistic, yet virtual, view of what they will experience downrange.

Ground Forces, said the experience was great.

"This was my first experience training with foreign armies, and the biggest problem was the language, but I learned (to speak) better from the U.S. Soldiers," Miller said. "The best thing is I got to know the 'man' in the uniform – every Soldier is a 'man' first," he said.

Miller added that learning and teaching together was good with the U.S. Soldiers.

U.S. Soldiers serve in different parts of the world and are more likely to meet foreign Soldiers, but it's not often they get to see and work with Russian Soldiers, he said.

Given the obvious language barrier, not a

stone went unturned.

"We arranged for each of the six Russian Soldiers to have a 'Battle Buddy' who spoke fluent Russian, and three of those six were native speakers," Ricketts reported. "So everywhere they went they would be able to communicate effectively."

Ellenburg eloquently summed up the experience of the 04-06 Warrior Leader Course class by saying Soldiering is in the heart and not about the type of uniform Soldiers wear.

"Language barriers or the uniforms worn will not deter us from accomplishing our goals or mission if we continue to train and understand each other as Soldiers," he concluded.

Military sexual assault report released for 2005

DoD News Release

The Department of Defense announced today the release of the second annual report on the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response program. The report provides data on alleged sexual assaults reported to military officials during calendar year 2005 in which members of the armed forces are victims or offenders.

The data indicate that the department has made great progress in establishing a robust and effective sexual assault prevention program. All of the military services implemented aggressive education and training programs designed to build a climate of confidence.

Fundamental changes to reporting procedures were also adopted across the department. This integrated program resulted in 2,374 reported allegations of sexual assault involving a service member as either a victim or perpetrator.

Previous DoD studies and commissions found that some victims chose to forego support services rather than participate in the investigative process. To address this barrier, the department instituted two methods of reporting: restricted and unrestricted.

Unrestricted reporting gives victims support services and initiates the criminal investigation process. There were 2,047 unrestricted reports in CY 2005.

Restricted reporting allows members to access care without automatically starting the investigative process.

Implemented in June 2005, there were 435 restricted reports.

The new restricted reporting option accounted for 65 percent of the 674-report increase over CY 2004.

In addition to removing barriers, DoD designed this option to provide the time, care and empowerment necessary for some victims to request a criminal investigation of their assault. In 2005, 108 (or 25 percent) of the victims who chose restricted reporting subsequently changed to unrestricted reporting.

At the close of the reporting period on Dec. 31, 2005, criminal investigations had been completed on 1,386 cases. This resulted in 163 unidentified alleged offenders and 44 alleged offenders where either civilian or foreign authorities had jurisdiction.

Another 641 alleged offenders had cases that were either unfounded, unsubstantiated or there was insufficient evidence to prosecute. When the reporting period closed, 352 offenders were awaiting final action and another 274 had punitive action completed.

The 2006 report will detail the status of the 661 investigations that were pending completion and the action taken on the 352 offenders awaiting final action.

This second annual report demonstrates the department's commitment to eliminating sexual assault from its ranks by removing barriers, creating a climate of confidence in reporting and ensuring care is accessible for all victims.

Recognizing that this will be a long term effort, the Joint Task Force for Sexual Assault Prevention and Response has transitioned to a permanent office under the direction of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness. The department will continue to refine the SAPR program and ensure its vigorous implementation throughout the armed forces.

To view the executive summary of the department's report to Congress, visit <http://www.defenselink.mil/news/Mar2006/d20060316SexualAssaultReport.pdf>.





Vilseck Middle/High School students win Vision of Excellence awards at March 3 competition.

# Visions of Excellence honors local students

Story and photo by KATHY JORDAN  
Staff writer

Vilseck Middle/High School students were given a chance to showcase their talents during the annual Visions of Excellence competition March 3.

Approximately 40 students participated in the program sponsored by the U.S. Army Garrison-Grafenwoehr Equal Opportunity Office.

This year's theme was "Celebrating Community: A Tribute to Fraternal, Social, & Civil Institutions."

For the last four years, USAG Headquarters and Headquarters Company 1st Sgt. Verlene Dickson has spearhead the program, and explained why she continues the event year after year.

"The excitement you see on the children's faces the night they are being awarded their certificate or plaques are trophies is great," said Dickson. "It gives those students that are not often noticed a chance to shine."

The Visions of Excellence competition is a variation of a NAACP program Dickson attended while in the U.S. After witnessing the contest, Dickson said she returned to Germany and established a local community program.

"I chose the name Visions of Excellence because it gives students a chance to show their talents to others," she said. "Usually we do things with the elementary schools. We really don't do much with the middle and high school."

She said the program began in 2003 with 14 students. Today, it boasts many more, and Dickson is confident that the program is accomplishing its goal.

"I am excited about the program," she said. "The growing numbers tell me that the kids that have been in it, enjoy it and they keep coming back. Others hear about what we are doing and want to take part in it. It's really working. I hope it keeps growing for the kids' sake."

To compete, students submit an entry form and receive parental consent and deadline instructions for their projects.



Dickson

"I do not put myself in the judging," said Dickson. "I take the information and sort it out, then notify the judges that I know do not have children in the high school and give them a deadline of when their decision has to be completed.

"After receiving the information I write it all down and the students have a program to announce the winners," said Dickson.

This year students competed in five categories: art, poetry, oracle, dance, and music. Each entry was judged on creativity, Black History concepts, and effort. Music recitals were judged on performance, tone, selection, and stage presence.

The music, dance, poetry and oratory competition was held at the Vilseck Teen Center. The art competition was set up for display at the entrance of the Vilseck Post Exchange.

And despite the relatively large number of entrees, all students win a prize.

"There are no losers," said Dickson. "There is a first, second, or third place winner with a trophy. Other children will receive a plaque for honorable mention. We do this so the children know we appreciate them getting in the program."

Every student that competes becomes eligible for the title of Outstanding Student of the Year. Elisa Caffrey was named the 2006 Vision of Excellence Middle School Student of the Year; Kevin Jordan II was named this year's High School Student of the Year.

The Outstanding Student of the Year award is given based on the student's grade point average, school attendance record, participation in extra curricular activities, community service, social interaction with teachers and peers, and their character, she said.

Dickson, who does not take part in the judging, says she is surprised every year by the winners.

"You may think an honor roll student might win but that is not (always) the case," she said. "They weight a lot of things into their decision to chose the winners."

Local organizations donate trophies, prizes, and paid meals for all entrants. Students who volunteer their time and talents also receive free.

The program is operated by Vilseck Middle/High school students.

See *Visions*, page 16

# Soldiers, Army civilians take top awards

U.S. Army news release

Each year, the Department of the Army Chief of Public Affairs holds a competition to inspire and reward the journalistic talents of Soldiers and civilians in the Army Public Affairs field.

This year, a number of U.S. Army, Europe, Installation Management Agency-Europe and American Forces Network Soldiers and civilians received awards at the DA level in 21 print, Web and broadcast media categories.

Print Media Awards

Category B-Tabloid Format newspapers

1st Place-The Citizen, Installation Management Agency-Europe, U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Public Affairs

Category G-Commentary

2nd Place-Hugh C. McBride, "Gender Discrimination: Quick, easy, wrong", IMA-EURO, The Citizen, USAG Stuttgart PA

Category K-Photojournalism

3rd Place-Jason Austin, "Focused Downrange," USAREUR-PAO

Category O-"Rising Star" Print Journalist

For Outstanding New Writer

1st Place-Spc. Mary Ferguson, USAREUR, 3rd Corps Support Command

Category S-Special Achievement Print Media

1st Place-Danger Forward, "Special Edition/Photo Issue", 1st Infantry Division, PAO

Category T-Web-based Publication

2nd Place-Duty First website, www.1id.army.mil, 1st ID, PAO

Broadcast Media Awards

Category A-Radio Entertainment Program

1st Place-"Isaac & Larry" Army Broadcast System, Armed Forces Network, Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe

Category B-Radio Spot/Promo Production

2nd Place-Aaron Talley, "POV Storage", ABS, AFN South

3rd Place-"Dueling Chefs" ABS, AFN SHAPE

Honorable Mention-"Thermae de Spa", ABS, AFN SHAPE

Category C-Radio News Report

1st Place-Michelle Michael, "Tsunami Relief", ABS, AFN Europe Headquarters

Category E-Radio Sports Report

HM-Staff Sgt. Frank Minnie, "Umpire", ABS, AFN Bavaria

Category F-Radio Newscast

1st Place-Michelle Michael, "Morning Newswatch," ABS, AFN Europe HQ

Category G-Radio Information program

HM-"1st ID Welcome Home," ABS, AFN Bavaria

Category H-Television Information program

2nd Place-"Year of the Peacemakers," USAREUR, 135th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

HM-"First 50 Years", ABS, AFN South

Category I-Television Spot/Promo Production

1st Place-"Taxes on the Brain", ABS, AFN Bavaria

2nd Place-"Bavarian Report Tease", ABS AFN Bavaria

Category J-Television News Report

1st Place-Spc. Jesse Granger, "Urban Combat Training," USAREUR, 1st ID, PAO

3rd Place-Sgt. Randall Jackson, "Under Fire", ABS, AFN South

Category K-Television Feature Report

2nd Place-Aaron Talley, "Book Critic," AFN South

HM-"Tanker", ABS, AFN Bavaria

Category M-Local Television Newscast

1st Place-"The Bavarian Report-Warrior Leadership Course," ABS, AFN Bavaria

2nd Place-"The Guardian Report," USAREUR, 135th MPAD

Category N-Regional Television Newscast

3rd Place-"AFN Evening News," ABS, AFN Europe HQ

Category O-Television Newscast

1st Place- "KMC Update," ABS, AFN Kaiserslautern

Category P-Command Information Plan

1st Place-"Taxes on the Brain," ABS, AFN Bavaria

Category R-John T. Anderson, Military Broadcast Journalist of the Year

1st Place-Staff Sgt. Luke Burns, ABS, AFN Bavaria

# TF 1-18 Soldiers work with PSYOPS to secure town

Story and photo by Spc. JOE ALGER  
1st Infantry Division Public Affairs

During their time in Grafenwoehr and Hohenfels, training for their upcoming mission to Iraq, the Task Force 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment Soldiers have had plenty of experience honing their combat skills. But during their training in Hohenfels March 9, they had a chance to work on their people skills too.

When conducting infantry training to prepare to go to a hostile environment, it can be easy to forget that there are other aspects to the job besides kicking in doors.

Working hand-in-hand with town leadership and police forces has been an equally important aspect of fighting the Global War on Terrorism.

That was the main area of focus for the TF 1-18 Soldiers on this particular mission.

According to CPT Donald Johnson, A Company commander, TF 1-18, the mission, which took place in the simulated Iraqi city of Ash Sharqat, was a complex one, involving several different forces and tactics.

Ash Sharqat is one of the many military operations in urban terrain sites set up to resemble Iraqi villages throughout Hohenfels.

The mission began, Johnson said, when the coalition forces were informed of a meeting in the town between several insurgents.

Once the TF 1-18 Soldiers had formulated a plan for entering the town and killing or capturing the insurgents, they informed the town police



**Psychological Operations Soldiers broadcast a message to the townspeople in the simulated Iraqi village of Ash Sharqat during training by Task Force 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment in Hohenfels March 9.**

chief of the plan and also enlisted the help of Iraqi army and police members in the area.

"One of the big things I try to do is work with the leadership of the town," Johnson said. "I wanted to get the police chief involved, so I told him we're going to have some Soldiers in the town and need his help identifying some of the bad guys."

Once the Soldiers had entered the town and identified the insurgents with the help of the police chief, the second part of the plan, meeting with the local leaders to discuss issues in the town, went into affect.

"We worked with the mayor discussing infra-

structure while we were there," Johnson said. "We worked with the CA (Civil Affairs) team to produce a contract designed to help solve their electrical problems, while also producing more jobs in the town."

While this was taking place, another important aspect of the mission, keeping the townspeople informed, was being conducted by Psychological Operations personnel. Johnson said PSYOPS messages are important because it's difficult to go up to each individual person in the town and explain what is going on, so it's more effective to put out a message to the entire town. "We're basically telling our side of the story," he said.

Some of the main messages the PSYOPS Soldiers were instructed to put out to the townspeople was to stay inside their homes for their own security while the mission was taking place. They also informed the people that the reason the Soldiers were in the town was to capture insurgents who were engaged in behavior that is harmful to the town and its people. An additional PSYOPS message informed the people that the coalition forces were not only there as a security force, but also to help ensure the future progress of the town.

Johnson, who served as a military advisor to the Iraqi army during Operation Iraqi Freedom II, knows the importance of maintaining good relationships with partnering forces and local officials.

"We want to make leaders responsible for their areas, whether it's the security, political or



**Capt. Donald Johnson, A Company commander, Task Force 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment (right), works with a town police chief during a cordon and search mission in the simulated village of Ash Sharqat in Hohenfels March 9.**

economic aspect of it," Johnson said. "I tell them that they're in charge and we're (coalition forces) there to lend a helping hand. It's the same way with Soldiers I have working for me; you want to put people in charge who know how to get the job done. (Story by SPC Joe Alger, 1st Infantry Division Public Affairs)



# Community Spotlight

# What’s Happening

## Women’s Soccer Team needs players of all skill levels

SC Eschenbach Women’s Soccer Team is looking for players, ages 17-35, of all skill levels to play on our team this season. Training is every Monday and Thursday (except German holidays) from 7:15 – 9 p.m. Games are typically on Saturday or Sunday.

Come join us at the soccer fields in Eschenbach near the large lake on B470. If you are interested in joining, need directions, or want more information, call Julia at 0160-7572215 or e-mail juliaschaeffler@yahoo.de.

## Women History Month Luncheon tomorrow

Everyone is invited tomorrow to join Col. Brian Boyle and guest speaker MG (Ret) Patricia P. Hickerson in a tribute to Women History Month at the Tower View Club in Grafenwoehr. Luncheon starts 11:30 a.m., cost \$9.

## Bavarian Arts Guild presents “The Foreigner” through April 8

The Bavarian Arts Guild presents the play “The Foreigner” by Larry Shue March 24-26, April 7-8. Entrance fee \$10 for adults, students/children \$5. At the Vilseck Middle/High School. Show time 7 p.m.

## Women’s workout workshop

Join us Saturday at the Graf Field House in celebrating Women’s History Month with a fitness workshop offering a variety of high-cardio and low-impact fitness classes throughout the morning. This annual event is an opportunity for women/men of all ages, both German and American, to come together to exercise, exchange fitness/nutritional strategies and network. Attire: Comfortable workout clothing, cross-training or aerobic shoes. No cost. Graf Field House, Bldg 547 at 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. For more info, call the USAG Graf EEO or EO offices at 475-8038/475-7215

## 38th PSB temporary closure

38th Personnel Services Battalion, Delta Detachment (Vilseck, Graf and Hohenfels) will be closed the week of March 27-31. This closure is due to the Battalion Field Training Exercise. The ID Cards/Passport Sections at all three locations will remain open for business.

They will reopen for normal operations April 3.

## March 29 Welcome Home Celebration – honors 94 ECB, 18 CSB and others

Wednesday, March 29, promises to be a memorable day for all USAG Grafenwoehr folks, but particularly for our recently redeployed Soldiers, their families and significant others.

Official welcome home ceremonies start at 1 p.m. with informal celebrations kicking off at 3:30 p.m. at Rose Barracks’ South Staging Area/Vilseck Airfield. Open to all USAG Grafenwoehr community members. Free food and refreshment, rides and entertainment for children of all ages, fireworks, plus live musical entertainment by such stars as Michael Warren, Lil’ Romeo and Master P.

Tune in to local media for updates and more detailed information on this celebration.

## Leadership, Education and Development Course

A LEAD course is being offered April 17-21, is designed by the Center for Army Leadership, and is required for all civilian and military personnel who are first-time supervisors. To sign up go to [www.chra.eur.army.mil](http://www.chra.eur.army.mil) click on training & development, then HRDD courses in Europe, course schedule and click on enroll. If Internet access is not available, fax the registration page to DSN 375-9778.

## AWAG 4-day conference scheduled May 11-15

American Women’s Activities, Germany (AWAG) is getting ready for its annual conference, May 11-15. This four-day annual conference is held at Edelweiss Lodge and Resort in Garmisch, Germany. The AWAG mission is to train, strengthen, and connect volunteers, their organizations, and their communities. AWAG seeks to accomplish its mission through leadership development training, promoting volunteerism, and fostering relationships between American community members and their local national neighbors. AWAG has set up a Paypal account to help you use a credit card to send your volunteers and Soldiers to this training. To learn more about the annual conference please contact the Reservations Chairperson, Alicia Faddis at [hessen1@awag.us](mailto:hessen1@awag.us) or contact your local spouse’s club.

## Graf Daily Mass Schedule During Lent

Daily Mass at 7a.m. in the Graf Chapel on the following days:

- March 22
- April 3
- April 5
- April 7

## Graf, Vilseck & Hohenfels Lent & Easter Chapels Schedules

- 5 April – Parish Council Meeting, Vilseck, 5:30 p.m.
- 7 April – Stations of the Cross, Vilseck, 5:30 p.m.
- 8 April – Confirmation, Hohenfels, 4 p.m.
- 13 April – Holy Thursday, Graf, 6 p.m.
- 14 April – Good Friday, Graf, 6 p.m.
- 15 April – Easter Vigil, Graf, 6 p.m.
- 16 April – Easter Sunday MASS ONLY, Vilseck, 11 a.m.

## Civilian Attitude Survey now available in several languages

This is Army’s official attitude and opinion survey which measures job satisfaction, workforce morale, and other issues is now available for you to take in English, German, Italian, Dutch, French, Korean, or Japanese. To get to the survey, go to [www.globalsurvey.net/army](http://www.globalsurvey.net/army). The survey is voluntary and may be taken during your normal duty hours. If you prefer, you can take the survey at home on your own computer. It will be available through 31 March.

## RCO Grafenwoehr Renamed

The Regional Contracting Office (RCO) has changed its name from RCO Grafenwoehr to RCO Bavaria. This change was effective on 1 Jan. The RCO is located on the second floor of Building 244 at the GTA, near Gate 3. NOTE: If you’re a COR, Ordering Officer, GPC A/O or cardholder, or generate requirements that come to the RCO, you can find current and pertinent information that will assist you with

your acquisitions in our Monthly Newsletters on the Garrison’s Q drive under Tenant Units/RCO.

## New Distribution List Standards now in effect

IMA-Europe has set new standard for Distribution Lists (DL) naming. Before they looked like DL USAG Grafenwoehr, the new naming convention is DL IMA-E Grafenwoehr. For example, the Safety Office name was DL USAG Grafenwoehr Safety; now the correct name when doing a search is DL IMA-E Grafenwoehr Safety. So when looking up a group, do the search with DL IMA-E Grafenwoehr. For additional info on the new change contact David Breedon (the Information Assurance Manager) DSN 475-8842.

## OCS Board reconvening in May

Soldier’s packets are due to the G1 NLT 1 May. The 7th US Army Joint Multinational Training Command (JMTC), Officer Candidate School Board (OCS) will be conducted on May 19, at 8 a.m., Bldg 621., please ensure that all packets are thoroughly reviewed prior to submission. POC Staff Sgt. Fields at 475-6952.

## State Primaries approaching

Make sure you are registered to vote. Registration forms (SF-76, Federal Post Card Applications) and more voting info can be obtained under: <http://www.fvap.gov> or the USAG Graf Voting Assistance Officer, Sieglinde Schedl, DSN 475-6753.

## Mandatory myPay document retrieval policy

Employees with customized myPay PINs are required to obtain their Leave, W-2 and Earnings Statements electronically. Contact your local CPAC at 475-7139 for more info.

## Emergency Dental Care Available 24/7 at Graf, Vilseck

After-hours, weekend, and holiday emergency dental care is available in Graf and Vilseck, 24/7. Active duty and family members have access to after-hour emergency dental care by calling the local MP station: Graf: DSN 475-8319 or 09641-83-8319; Vilseck: DSN 476-2490 or 09662-83-2490. A dentist will return your call and speak with you about the dental emergency.

## Sexual assault a criminal offense

If a sexual assault should occur, report it within 24 hours. For more information or to report a sexual assault incident, contact the Sexual Assault Response Coordinator for Graf and Vilseck (24/7 telephone access): DSN: 476-3217 CIV: 09662-83-3217, e-mail: [aprcordinator@graf.eur.army.mil](mailto:aprcordinator@graf.eur.army.mil). For emergencies and immediate investigation call the MP station at Graf 475-8319 or 09641-838319, Vilseck 476-3397 or 09662-833397.

## Join your local Kontakt Club

Learn about Bavarian customs, traditions and lifestyle. Share your American culture and experiences with them.

**Grafenwoehr** Kontakt Club is online. The Kontakt Club is a great opportunity to meet fellow American and German friends, play games and have fun. Check out their current events <http://www.grafenwoehr.de/home/index.asp?sid=&tid=26&topnavid=7&navid=0&bid=1696>

**Vilseck** Kontakt Club is not online. Contact Mr. Melvin Gonzales, 475-7441.

Amberg Kontakt Club meets at the Hubertushof in Amberg. Contact Joe Roberts at 09645-601294

For additional information about Kontakt Clubs in the area call Franz Zeilmann at USAG Grafenwoehr Public Affairs, DSN 475-8885 or Civ. 09641-83-8885.

## Mandatory SAEDA training scheduled April 27-28

The Grafenwoehr and Vilseck communities will conduct the third Subversion and Espionage Directed against the Army (SAEDA) class for Fiscal 2006 April 27-28.

This class is a mandatory annual requirement for all DOD personnel including military, AF/NAF (both U.S. and Local National). Ensure you arrive on time. Training will begin promptly at the indicated times. Class schedules are as follows:

- April 27  
**Vilseck** (Location: Post Theater)  
1-2:30 p.m. (U.S. personnel)  
2:30-4 p.m. (LN personnel)
- April 28  
**Grafenwoehr** (Location: Tower Theater)  
9-10:30 a.m. (U.S. personnel)  
10:30 a.m.-noon (LN personnel)

## Entrepreneur’s Workshop

Are you interested in starting your own business? The Gruenderzentrum (Business Development Agency) in Grafenwoehr offers a free 3-day Business Start-Up Seminar in English April 27 to 29 April, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

For workshop registration contact Gabriele Murry at [g.w.murry@t-online.de](mailto:g.w.murry@t-online.de) with your detailed contact information (full name, cell phone, work phone, e-mail).

## Road Conditions/School Delays

Listen to AFN AM 1107 for road conditions or school delays. Or call Graf exchange then ROAD (09641-83-ROAD, 475-7623). Info can also be obtained thru AFN website, or go directly to <http://g3operations.hqsareur.army.mil/Divisions/OPS/ASGConditions/default.asp>

## Join Hohenfels’ BOX RUN

Choose from a half marathon, a 10K or a 3K Fun Run. Register by 26 April and receive a FREE T-shirt to the first 250 runners who register. You also can register the day of the race from 7-8:15 a.m. in the Fest Tent for an additional fee. The race starts at 8:30 a.m. and takes you right into “The Box.” For more info and registration go to [www.firstinbattle-usa.com](http://www.firstinbattle-usa.com), or email [firstinbattle-usa@hotmail.com](mailto:firstinbattle-usa@hotmail.com). Contact Doug Hettler, DSN 466-2224

## Hohenfels Mandatory Spring ‘Rev Up’ Training

Six motorcycle training sessions will be held on April 4-6. If you plan on riding when spring arrives, you must attend one of these short sessions to help re-familiarize yourself with your bike and the road. Please see the attached memorandum from Col. Vandal, and reserve your spot by next Monday. POC is the USAG Hohenfels Safety Office, DSN 466-1670/2865

## Hohenfels Automatic Car Wash temporarily closed

The automatic car wash is temporarily closed and will re-

open as soon as repairs are completed. The do-it-yourself car wash stations and vacuums are still operational.

## Hohenfels Volunteer Nominations Needed

In May, the Hohenfels Garrison will be conducting the Volunteer Recognition Ceremony to recognize the post volunteer of the year. Nominations for the Volunteer of the Year Award should be submitted to ACS no later than March 31. Organizations and individuals post wide are asked to contact Eva Garrett of ACS for specific volunteer awards criteria at 466-2081, 09472-83-2081 or at [eva.garrett@us.army.mil](mailto:eva.garrett@us.army.mil)

## Hohenfels Umpires and Score Keepers needed

For the 2006 Youth Sports Baseball and Softball Season. If interested please e-mail [jerry.mayhew1@graf.eur.army.mil](mailto:jerry.mayhew1@graf.eur.army.mil) or sign up at the Youth Sports Office MWR Bldg. 46 Rm. 3.

## Hohenfels Volunteer Bus Drivers Needed

Bus drivers wanted for Youth Sports Baseball team. All those who would like to volunteer to drive a bus with a bus license, please contact Jerry Mayhew on Global or call DSN 466-2488.

## April is Month of the Military Child

Hohenfels’ Child and Youth Services would like to honor the military child thru hosting this years annual Kinderfest. The Kinderfest will be conducted on 15 April from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. In order to make this event a success we need the help of this community. For more information please contact the CLEOS office at 09472-83-2078.

## Change in Hourly Care times for Hohenfels JMRC Ball

Due to requests from the community, hourly care will be available starting at 5:15 p.m. on March 31 for those attending the JMRC Ball. Accordingly, CYS will have a Special Opening on March 31 from 5:15-10:30 p.m. Sign-ups are currently available at your Hohenfels CLEOS office. Limited slots available. For more information, please contact the CLEOS office at 09472-83-2078.

## Hohenfels’ Summer Jam boat ride party tickets on sale now

Don’t miss the biggest party of the year. Get your tickets now before they are sold out for the summer Jam boat ride party. For tickets call Kevin McMullen at 09626-929485 or 0160-5024880. See attached flyer for more information

## Enjoy Local Swimming Pools

Authorized swimming areas for Grafenwoehr, Vilseck and Hohenfels:

## Outdoor Pools

**Amberg:** Kurfuerstenbad, Hockermuehle  
**Auerbach:** Schwimm-Sol-A-Sim; Hallenbad  
**Bayreuth:** Stadtbad; Kreuzsteinbad; Freiluftbad  
**Eschenbach:** Hallenbad  
**Grafenwoehr:** Waldbad  
**Hahnbach:** Hallenbad  
**Immenreuth:** Outdoor Pool  
**Kemnath:** Schwimmhalle  
**Mitterteich:** Freibad

**Pegnitz:** Freizeitzentrum; Schwimmhalle  
**Sulzbach-Rosenberg:** Hallenbad; Waldbad  
**Tirschenreuth:** Freibad; Hallenbad  
**Vilseck:** Hoehenschwimmbad  
**Weiden:** Thermenwelt; Schaetzlerbad  
**Weierhammer:** Schwimmhalle  
**Windischeschenbach:** Freibadeanlage  
**Beratzhausen:** Schwimmbad  
**Breitenbrunn:** Schwimmbad  
**Burgwallbach:** Burgwallbacher See  
**Dietfurt/Altmuehl:** Schwimmbad  
**Freudenberg:** Schwimmbad  
**Hirschau:** Monte Kaolino Schwimmbad  
**Illschwang:** Schwimmbad  
**Kastl:** Schwimmbad  
**Kuemmersbruck:** Hallenbad  
**Neustadt/Waldnaab:** Schwimmhalle  
**Parsberg:** Schwimmhalle; Wellenbad  
**Regen:** Schwimmbad  
**Rieden:** Schwimmbad  
**Roetz:** Schwimmhalle  
**Schnaittenbach:** Waldbad  
**Schwandorf:** Schwimmbad  
**Stamsried:** Schwimmbad  
**Velburg:** Badesee  
**Waldsassen:** Schwimmbad  
**Burglengenfeld:** Schwimmhalle; Schwimmbad  
**Kelheim:** Kelderado  
**Neumarkt:** Hallenbad; Schwimmbad  
**Regensburg:** Hallenbad; RT Schwimmbad; Westbad

## Indoor

Amberg – Kurfuerstenbad, Tel:09621-603830  
<http://www.kurfuerstenbad-amberg.de/>  
Weiden – Thermenwelt, Tel. 0961-3893319  
<http://www.stadtwerke-weiden.de/thermenwelt/allgemwtw.htm>  
Edelsfeld – Public Pool at Hotel zum Goldenen Greif, Tel: 09665-91490  
<http://www.greifenwirt.de/>  
Kuemmersbruck (near Amberg)- Hallenbad, Tel: 09621-70835  
<http://www.kuemmersbruck.de/start.htm>  
Eschenbach – Public Pool at German School, 09645/1206  
<http://www.neustadt.de>Buergerservice>Hallenbaeder>  
Hahnbach – Public Pool at German School, Tel: 09664/913470  
<http://www.hahnbach.de/hallenbad.php>  
Auerbach – Hallenbad, Tel: 09643-2030  
<http://www.auerbach.de/sport.php?art=baeder>  
Kemnath – Hallenbad, Tel: 09642-625  
<http://www.kemnath.de/bad/index.html>  
Weierhammer – Hallenbad, Tel. 09605/559  
<http://www.weierhammer.de/>  
Neustadt / WN – Hallenbad, 09602-37345  
<http://www.neustadt-waldnaab.de/>  
Pegnitz – Hans-Scheuerlein-Schwimmhalle, Tel.: 09241-3579  
<http://tourismus.stadt-pegnitz.de/freizeit1.htm>  
Pottenstein – Juramar, Tel: 09243-903166  
<http://stadt.pottenstein.de/juramar.php>  
Bayreuth – Stadtbad, Tel: 0921-600382  
[http://www.bayreuth.de/sportstaetten\\_baeder/stadtbad\\_173.html](http://www.bayreuth.de/sportstaetten_baeder/stadtbad_173.html)  
– SVB Hallenbad, Tel: 0921-98614  
[http://www.bayreuth.de/deutsch/freizeit\\_sport/sportstaetten\\_baeder/svb\\_hallenbad\\_170.html](http://www.bayreuth.de/deutsch/freizeit_sport/sportstaetten_baeder/svb_hallenbad_170.html)  
– Lohengrin-Therme, Tel: 0921-79240-10  
<http://www.lohengrin-therme.de/>

# BULK TRASH PICK-UP

*City of GRAFENWOEHR and villages Gmuend and Huetten*

## WHEN AND WHERE:

**Monday, April 24, curbside, in front of your home**

**THIS PICK-UP IS MAINTAINED BY THE LOCAL COUNTY, NOT THE U.S. ARMY**

## ☺ WHAT WILL BE PICKED UP?

Everything, that is too big or too heavy to go into the normal refuse container, including: Furniture, mattresses, carpets, washing machines, dryers, radios, TVs, ovens, stoves, bicycles, strollers, etc., and other items that cannot be dismantled or broken down to a size that would fit in the regular refuse container.

**Each single item should be no larger than 80x40x32 inches and no heavier than 110 pounds.**

Bulk trash consisting of metal (i.e. bicycles, washers, dryers, stoves, etc.) and electronic equipment (i.e. large and small appliances, cooling devices, information and telecommunications, including entertainment equipment) should be put out separately next to the normal bulk trash.

### Pick ups will be performed in three steps:

- Combustible material like mattresses, rugs, furniture, etc.
- Electronic equipment: i.e. TV, PC, printer, scanner, radio, VCR, DVD player, monitor, vacuum cleaner, refrigerators and freezers (permission stickers no longer required) etc. together with
- Metal items: i.e. bicycles, ironing boards, washer, dryer, dishwasher, stoves (oil stoves and oil barrels must be totally emptied), etc.
- Wood (i.e. wooden bed frames, wardrobes, chairs, and tables, etc.)

**Smaller electronic appliances (i.e. hairdryer, toothbrush, telephones, drilling machine, etc.) should be dropped off at the infrequent off post “circuit riding” poison wagon. The poison wagon will be in Grafenwoehr at the “Staedische Bauhof,” Thumbachstr. 27 on Jun 10 from 2:20-3:50 p.m.**

## ☹ WHAT WILL NOT BE PICKED UP?

- Normal refuse, recyclable material, garden refuse such as cut grass, branches, etc.
- Hazardous waste
- Tires, car parts, batteries, wrecked cars, or motorcycles
- Doors and windows (with or without glass), laminated floor, or rouleaus
- Construction debris
- Night storage heaters

**Any material not picked up must be removed by residents. Don’t put out the wrong stuff!!**

It may happen that the pick-up is delayed for some reason. If your material does not get picked up on the announced date, just leave it in place. It will be picked up for sure on the next day or the day after.



# SHORT-PROGRAM

USAG GRAFENWOEHR, O & M Division, Utilities Branch Grafenwoehr, DSN 475-7144





# Central Command chief: Iraq not on verge of civil war

**by JIM GARAMONE**  
American Forces Press Service

Iraq is not on the verge of a civil war, and sectarian issues in the country are controllable, the commander of U.S. Central Command told the House Armed Services Committee in Washington D.C. March 15.

Army Gen. John Abizaid testified about CENTCOM's posture. He told the representatives he believes a government of national unity will emerge in Iraq and that the Iraqi security forces will continue to improve.

Abizaid said he was concerned about sectarian violence in Iraq since the bombing of the Golden Mosque in Samarra on Feb. 22. He said he believes fugitive Jordanian terrorist Abu Musab al-Zarqawi's al Qaeda in Iraq group was responsible for the bombing as an attempt to foment civil war.

"Certainly we believe that the Samarra bombings were the work of

al Qaeda. This is well within their stated intentions," the general said. "No, I don't have proof, but that's who I think did it, and that's who most Iraqis think did it. They have every reason to find a wedge to provide sectarian difficulties, to make the government fail, and to cause the Iraqi security forces to lose heart."

Iraq needs a unity government, and soon, Abizaid said. The new government must build strong ministries "that are not dominated by various sectarian concerns, and move forward in order to move the country towards peace and prosperity and defeat the insurgency."



Army Gen. John Abizaid

Abizaid said al Qaeda remains the primary target in the region. "We continue to fight al Qaeda wherever we find them," he said. "We fight them directly every day in Iraq and in Afghanistan."

Enemy tactics in Afghanistan, the general said, have moved away from guerrilla-type ambushes toward assassinations, roadside bombs and attacks against government officials "that are moving more and more out into the hinterlands."

Coalition allies in the region also are putting pressure on al Qaeda, he said, and he specifically cited the cooperation received from Saudi Arabia and Pakistan. "Every country in the region that has an al Qaeda threat approaches it in a way that we all need to pay attention to," he said.

Al Qaeda is active and dangerous in

the region, he said. But, "the vast majority of the people in the region don't want it to win," he said. "And in this battle between moderates and extremists, we need to understand that we're fighting with the good people of the region, not against them."

The general said progress is being made in the region. He said NATO

working in Afghanistan is an important mission for the alliance and the world. He said the Iraqi army, in particular, did very well in the country in the days after the attack in Samarra. He said the Iraqi police must be brought up to a similar standard where their first loyalty is to the nation and not to ethnic or tribal groups.

The strategy in Iraq is working, the general said. As Iraqi forces train and gain more experience, they are taking over more and more responsibility.

"In fact, by the end of the year, it is our desire that the Iraqis will have the vast majority of the lead in fighting the insurgency and dealing with the security problems that certainly will continue to be in Iraq," he said.

*'Every country in the region that has an al Qaeda threat approaches it in a way that we all need to pay attention to.'*

## 'Operation Scales of Justice' curbs violence Iraqi citizens gain confidence as government takes shape

**by DONNA MILES**  
American Forces Press Service

Iraqi and coalition forces have boosted their presence in Baghdad in response to a surge in attacks against Iraqis that officials link to the March 16 seating of the country's new parliament, a Multinational Force Iraq spokesman told reporters.

"Operation Scales of Justice" was launched to enhance security in Iraq's capital city as the parliament begins selecting the country's new government, Army Maj. Gen. Rick Lynch said today in Baghdad.

The 275-member body met briefly today to begin the difficult process of electing a president, two vice presidents and a prime minister. Lynch called the seating of the new government another nail in the coffin for extremists committed to preventing democracy from taking hold in Iraq. "Clearly, (this is) an important milestone in Iraq's pathway to democracy," he said.

"If you are the leader of the insurgency – if you are (Abu Musab al-) Zarqawi, .. a terrorist or foreign fighters, if you still want to discredit the Iraqi government and derail the democratic process – then today, you are mad, because the Iraqi people were successful in seating a parliament," Lynch said.

As a last-ditch effort to stop momentum toward successful democracy, terrorists are working to incite sectarian violence with a focus on Baghdad, seat of the new government, he said. "The people of Iraq are in a very vulnerable period while they try to form this national unity government" and insurgents continue to try to stop it, Lynch said.

Lynch reported a dramatic spike in both roadside and car bombs across Iraq. Most are targeting Iraqi civilians and security forces, with attacks against them up 65 percent over the past four weeks compared to the previous six months, he said.

"All are well-placed and well-timed on the part of the insurgency," he said. "(The enemy is) clearly targeting civilians to inflame sectarian violence, and we are seeing that in spades in Baghdad."

Murders and assassinations also are up, to as many as 30 a day. Lynch said most appear to be retaliatory, then counter-retaliatory attacks, fueling "a cycle of violence."

In response, Iraqi security and coalition forces participating in Scales of Justice have stepped up patrols and increased their operations in Baghdad, Lynch said.

Most of these 3,700 additional forces were moved temporarily to Baghdad from less volatile areas of the country. In addition, a 1st Armored Division task force deployed to the Baghdad area. This task force is part of a "call forward force" that had been based in Kuwait and was ready to conduct operations in Baghdad within 48 hours of being called upon, Lynch said.

This short-term deployment will have a long-term impact for the people of Iraq, he said. Once the national unity government forms, Lynch said, insurgents will have lost their opportunity to derail the democratic process in Iraq.

Three years into Operation Iraqi Freedom, Lynch cited the solid progress taking place in Iraq as a democratic government takes shape. He contrasted the days when former dictator Saddam Hussein ruled the country with a bloody iron fist to today, as he stands trial in Baghdad. Lynch noted that it's a trial "by Iraqi people in an Iraqi court against Saddam Hussein for his crimes against the Iraqi people."

Iraq's security forces are stepping up and gaining in capability, Lynch said. Iraqi security forces are participating in 74 percent of all operations.

Iraqi citizens are gaining confidence in these forces as well, Lynch said. They're stepping forward to report suspicious activity and calling in more tips to an anonymous hotline.

Lynch reported "significant progress" toward the desired end state in Iraq. He described that state to reporters today: "Iraq is at peace with its neighbors, an ally in the war on terror. It has a representative government that respects the human rights of all Iraqis. It has a security force that can maintain domestic order and deny Iraq as a safe haven for terrorists."

He called today's political progress a big step toward that objective. "This idea of forming a representative government is coming across loud and clear in spades today with the seating and the convening of the council of representatives," he said.

*'The people of Iraq are in a very vulnerable period while they try to form this national unity government.'*

## U.S. Army's Modular Force Makes Debut in Afghanistan

**by GERRY J. GILMORE**  
American Forces Press Service

New, modular brigade combat team units accompanied the U.S. Army's 10th Mountain Division on its third tour to Afghanistan, the division's commander told Pentagon reporters March 16.

"This marks the first deployment of the Army's modular force to Operation Enduring Freedom," Maj. Gen. Benjamin C. Freakley said from Afghanistan during a satellite news conference. Freakley is also commander of Combined Joint Task Force 76, based at Bagram Air Base.

The task force has more than 15,000 U.S. Soldiers, sailors and Marines and about 4,300 coalition members, including Canadian, British, Dutch and Romanian forces.

The 10th's brigade combat teams are part of the Army's transformation into a more agile force with improved firepower.

About 50 percent of the 10th Division's Soldiers are either Afghanistan or Iraq combat veterans, Freakley said. And around 35 percent of the 10th's people now in Afghanistan have seen combat there before, he said.

Navy, Marine and Air Force fixed- and rotary-wing fliers support the 10th Division contingent in Afghanistan. "This is a great joint team," Freakley said.

Freakley said the keys to establishing security and stability across Afghanistan are partnering with the Afghan National Army, the Afghan National Police, and the Afghan Border Police.

U.S. and coalition forces fight alongside the Afghan army during anti-terrorist operations throughout Afghanistan, Freakley said. U.S. forces also conduct operations with Pakistani forces whenever possible, he said. The 10th division also supports provincial reconstruction teams, which work to rebuild or improve Afghanistan's infrastructure.

"The infrastructure here is very embryonic; it's a tough infrastructure," Freakley said, noting that infrastructure improvement improves security, which is followed by reconstruction.

Freakley noted that U.S. forces in Afghanistan's eastern regions will come under the command and control of the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force in the fall. At that time "NATO will take responsibility for all of Afghanistan for security, reconstruction and helping with governance," Freakley said. "We think that it's a logical and constructive step in the growth of the international community's assistance to Afghanistan."



Maj. Gen. Benjamin C. Freakley

**U.S. Army Soldiers, Iraqi soldiers and U.S. aircraft are positioned on the airstrip at Forward Operating Base Remagen, Iraq, in preparation for Operation Swarmer March 16. Operation Swarmer is a combined air assault operation to clear the area northeast of Samarra of suspected insurgents. The Soldiers are from the Iraqi Army's 1st Brigade, 4th Division, and the U.S. Army's 101st Airborne Division's 3rd Brigade Combat Team, and the 101st Combat Aviation Brigade.**



DoD photo by Sgt. 1st Class Antony Joseph, U.S. Army



# German Culture 101:

## Achtung! Beware of German ‘gift police’

by **MARTINA BIAS**  
Bavarian News Food & Culture columnist

Many of my American friends have commented on how difficult it is for them to bless their German neighbors and friends. Germans seem to have a hard time accepting gifts or favors without feeling they have to give something in return.

Unfortunately, this is a part of German culture. You give something back each time you receive something. This practice can be seen with something as simple as a birthday gift.

Germans take special care to remember each person who brought them a birthday gift. Later on, they will be sure to drop off a present on the giver’s special day as well. Casual friendships can easily be strained if one party neglects to give a present in return.

Additionally, when Germans borrow something from a neighbor or friend, they usually return it with “interest,” like a special thank-you gift.

You might think that this practice would make Germans very giving people, but there are many downsides to this tradition. It can take a lot of fun out of giving.

Often people feel they have to give out of obligation. It can also make people dread being on the receiving end of a favor or present because it brings with it the expectation that something must be given in return.

This is illustrated well in a recent encounter an American friend of mine had with his German neighbor. My friend was weeding his walkway and, instead of stopping at the edge of the area that he was responsible for, he continued and weeded his neighbor’s

property as well.

Soon after doing this good deed, he found a box of chocolates on his doorstep as a thank-you. However, when he continued to include his neighbor’s area in his landscaping maintenance, he was asked to stop doing so. The neighbor obviously did not want to be indebted on a continuous basis.

Just recently, my best friend from school and I would have made the German “gift police” very proud. I gave the jogging stroller that my kids had outgrown to her so she could use it on walks with her 1-year-old daughter.

My friend insisted on purchasing it from me for at least a minimal amount. You would think that this would have been an easy transaction. Far from it!

In preparation for our meeting, I remembered that I had not purchased a gift for her at the birth of her little girl (even though she delivered a present to me when my second child was born). So when we met up at my parent’s home, I presented a nicely wrapped package to her and her little one. My friend had brought me a little potted plant (a very popular thank-you-gift from Germans) to thank me for thinking about her when I was giving up the stroller.

Seeing my present for her daughter, she felt bad that she did not bring any gifts for my children, so she quickly opened her wallet and took out some coins for my kids to put in their piggy bank. This is another very common spur-of-the-moment gift given by Germans to kids.

To Americans, this might seem like over-the-top gift giving, but to Germans it is taken very seriously. To not follow these unwritten rules is considered extremely rude and stingy.

So from now on, be aware of this German custom and realize that by doing your German friends a favor or blessing them with a gift, you are inviting the same in return. On the other hand, know what is expected of you when you receive a present from a German, and don’t let the German gift police catch you unprepared.

*Have you ever wondered why Germans do certain things? I welcome your questions and comments. E-mail me at [martina.bias@us.army.mil](mailto:martina.bias@us.army.mil), and I may be able to address your suggestions in a future column.*

## German Baking 101:

# Simple ingredients, preparation make Nussecken a favorite year-round treat

by **MARTINA BIAS**  
Bavarian News Food & Culture columnist

Today we are baking a timeless German classic; Nussecken (literally: nut corners). I have a hard time deciding whether to describe them as a cake or a cookie. They do feature a cake layer, filling and topping like a cake, but there are many different ways of presenting this sweet treat.

Depending on how big you cut them and what ingredients you use, you might serve them as a dessert, alongside a cup of German coffee or as a small delectable bite.

Even though there are the classic Nussecken prepared with hazelnuts (both pointy corners of the triangular shape dipped in unsweetened chocolate with a layer of raspberry jam tucked inside), Germans have created many variations, which means you can have fun finding your favorite one.

Nussecken can be baked with ground hazelnuts, almonds, or a mixture of nuts. If you prefer a different texture, you can substitute chopped nuts as well.

Raspberry jam is the jam preferred by most German bakeries, but I have also tried them with apricot and strawberry jam and achieved very

tasty results. If you want a less sweet taste sensation, you can omit the jam.

To achieve the classic triangular shape, Nussecken are cut into squares first and then cut diagonally. How you dip them into the chocolate then is up to you.

Some people prefer the original corner-dip, others want chocolate all around the cutting lines, leaving the middle of the Nussecken plain. The real chocolate fan might feel like dipping half of the entire treat in the brown glaze.

And for those of you who are not partial to the triangular shape all together, it is good to know that you can cut them into whatever shape you like, as they are baked in one big sheet.

When it comes to the chocolate you choose to give the Nussecken its final sweet touch, you don’t have to necessarily choose the unsweetened variety. Semi-sweet or milk chocolate can satisfy your sweet tooth as well.

Its simple ingredients and easy preparation make Nussecken a favorite baked treat all year long in Germany. I hope you will add this recipe to your files today and bake them for your family and friends often.

Guten Appetit!



### Recipe for Nussecken

**Dough:**

- 2 cups flour
- ¾ cup corn starch
- 1 tsp. baking powder
- 1 cup sugar
- 2 tsp. vanilla extract
- 2 eggs
- 10 tsp. butter or margarine, softened

**Topping:**

- 1 cup jam of your choice (apricot, raspberry, or strawberry)
- 2 sticks butter or margarine, melted
- 1 ¾ cup sugar
- 2 tsp. vanilla extract
- 6 Tbs. water

- 3 ½ cups ground hazelnuts (or nuts of your choice)
- 1 cup chocolate chips
- 2 Tbs. shortening

In a large bowl, mix all dough ingredients with electric mixer. Roll out or pat to fit the greased bottom of a German Backblech or a deep (at least 1 inch deep) jelly roll pan.

Spread jam all over dough.

For the topping, combine melted butter or margarine and sugar, add vanilla extract, water, and ground hazelnuts. Spread evenly over jam layer.

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Bake for 45 minutes. Cool in pan on wire rack.

Cut cooled cake into 2-inch squares, then into triangles.

Melt chocolate chips and shortening in microwave and stir until smooth. Dip corners of Nussecken into chocolate and let cool on wire rack.

Yield: 18 Nussecken

*Do you have a favorite German dish you would like to recreate at home? You can e-mail me at [martina.bias@us.army.mil](mailto:martina.bias@us.army.mil), and I may be able to feature your requested recipe in a future issue.*

# Stay up to date with DeCA-Europe news, notes

Defense Commissary Agency Europe

## Properly cooked poultry safe to consume

According to the World Health Organization, International Food Safety Authorities Network, conventional cooking to temperatures at or above 70°C (160 degrees Fahrenheit) in all parts of a food item will inactivate the H5N1 virus.

Additionally, eggs should be thoroughly cooked (no runny yokes in those over easy eggs!) All poultry products sold in commissaries are inspected and approved by U.S. military authorities. In Italy and Spain, the commissaries are supplied with fresh chicken, duck, turkey and geese from Italy and Spain. All other European commissaries are supplied through a French company. Processed poultry products come from Germany and the U.S. For further information on the avian flu issue, visit <http://deploymenthealthlibrary.fhp.osd.mil> or <http://www.deploymentlink.osd.mil>.

## Make the most of Nutrition Month

March is National Nutrition Month, an excellent time to learn more about eating healthy.

Commissaries offer health and wellness products, fresh produce, lean meats and much more – all at cost. And, one of the best ways to lose weight and eat healthy is to know what’s in the products you’re buying. You can’t

always do that in restaurants or the fast food drive-thru, but you can do it by reading labels at the commissary and fixing your meals at home. Many commissaries are planning activities with dieticians or local health and wellness centers to foster education on healthier eating. Commissaries now feature small shelf signs with dietary tips based on the Dietary Guidelines for Americans from the U.S. departments of Agriculture and Health and Human Services.

## Cabbage, potatoes pick of the month

In honor of St. Patrick, we are featuring potatoes and cabbage this month. Did you know that “Idaho” potatoes and “russet” potatoes are the same thing? The “Idaho Potato” is a trademark. When that same potato is grown outside of Idaho, it must be referred to as a russet.

Cabbage, a relative of cauliflower and broccoli, first appeared in Europe about 2,000 years ago. Potatoes have 67 calories per half cup and are high in fiber, magnesium and potassium. Cabbage has 16 calories per half-cup and is high in vitamins A and C.

A fun and easy recipe combining potatoes and cabbage is called “Bubble and Squeak.” It got that name from the bubble and squeak noises it makes while it cooks. It’s a nice side to corned beef, a popular dish during the shamrock season! Serves 4.

- 1 lb. potatoes, cooked and mashed
- 8 oz. cabbage, cooked and finely chopped
- 1 oz. butter or oil
- 1 onion, finely chopped

**Heat the butter or oil in a large frying pan. Add the onion and cook until soft and transparent. Add the potatoes and cabbage. Mix well. Fry over a medium heat, turning occasionally, for 15 minutes or until golden.**

## DeCA scholarship applicants enter waiting period

The Scholarships for Military Children application screening process is underway for thousands of students in the running for \$1,500 scholarships. Scholarship Managers, a professional scholarship management firm, is screening the applications. If you want to know that your application is among those being considered, look for the online application verification reply form that will be available on March 31 at [www.militaryscholar.org](http://www.militaryscholar.org), the Scholarships for Military

Children Website. Recipients will be notified by mail and the scholarship Website will feature a list of recipients shortly after May 1. The program, which is administered by Fisher House Foundation and funded by manufacturers and suppliers of groceries and services in the commissary system, has awarded nearly \$4 million in scholarships to more than 2,400 students since the first awards in 2001. Donations from the public are also accepted at the official Website.

## Commissary gift certificates make great presents

If the new Virtual Commissary at <http://www.commissaries.com> doesn’t have what you’re looking for, then consider putting commissary gift certificates on your holiday shopping and gift lists. They are available in every commissary or online. The gift certificates can also be purchased through a link on DeCA’s Website at <https://www.commissaries.com/certifcheck/index.cfm> or by calling a toll-free number within the United States (1-877-770-4438). Commissary gift certificates can be purchased by anyone to give as gifts, but only authorized commissary shoppers can redeem them. Many charitable organizations also accept gift certificates as a donation to assist military families with grocery needs.





The Vilseck High soccer team practices in the snow for their upcoming soccer season.

Staff photo by Kathy Jordan

### 2006 Division II Boys and Girls Soccer Schedule

Date	Team	Location
March 18	Ansbach	Away
March 25	Hanau	Home
April 1	Patch	Away
April 22	BFA	Home
April 29	Hanau	Away
May 6	Patch	Home
May 13	BFA	Away
May 17-20	European Championship	

## Elementary school Geography bee highlights great study habits

Special to Bavarian News

Can you name the world's oldest inhabited city?

If so, then you would have answered one of the many questions asked during Grafenwoehr Elementary's 2006 Geography Bee March 7.

Twenty-five students participated in this year's contest. The students' high level of knowledge and their having studied the packets which came from their Social Studies texts caused the facilitators, Mrs. B. Davis and Mrs. P. Goul, to run out of questions on the first day.

The teacher had to reschedule another day to finish. More questions had to be used; these were questions the students had not prepared for. Everyone was amazed at the knowledge of these students. Emilie Cass was the winner of this year's Geography Bee. Leah Watson was the runner-up. Both sixth graders received certificates, World Atlases provided by the PTSA, and lots of praise from the other participants. All the participants received certificates of participation. Many thanks to our parents who helped as judges for our Geography Bee.



Courtesy photo

Emilie Cass took first place in the Geography Bee. Leah Watson was named runner-up.

# Do you know your Army sports history?

MWR Sports and Fitness Web page

Any sports director in the field wonders where and how the Army Sports Program originated. The following provides background information as to how we evolved into what we are today. But in a nutshell, we came from the experience of our allies in World War I, particularly the British and the Canadians in Europe. Specifically, they found that sports helped to promote and maintain military efficiency and moral. You will note in all of our mission statements, there is always something said about mass participation. These statements stem from the leaders concerns about the troops indulging in the use of liquor and prostitution during their leisure time and the lack of organized recreation and sports activities. Everyone was to be involved regardless of their athletic ability in the unit level program. The high level programs (battalion, regimental and post) stem from selecting the more highly skilled Soldier athletes to provide spectator entertainment to the Soldiers who didn't have the ability to perform at the regimental level. We will start at the beginning and fill in the blanks about this exciting evolution.

1. Military service as a way of life resembles no other. Hours of intense violent activity and extreme strain often followed by long periods of inactivity and boredom. The earliest commanders learned that these enemies to his combat capability could be best counteracted by recreational pursuits. 1 The information contained in this presentation highlights the development of sports and athletic programs for the US Soldiers from 1776 to the present.

2. Patrick Henry's eloquent plea for liberty and the shots fired at Lexington and Concord marked the beginning of the war against Britain. The Revolutionary Soldier and Sailor was left mostly to his own devices in finding recreational activity. One of the earliest activities aimed at improving the moral of the troops during this time was the Fife and Drum Corps. It not only helped rally the citizens to arms and encouraged patriotism, but provided music for enjoyment and relaxation.

3. Up until 1895, canteen and recreational activities were provided by civilian groups called the traders store system. These groups essentially were cooperative institutions whose expenses were met entirely by contributions from enlisted men, without any assistance whatever from the government, except permission to occupy vacant buildings. The building was maintained entirely at the traders' expenses.3 These traders provided a well-stocked general store, well-kept lunch counter, recreation rooms, supplied books, periodicals and other reading and writing materials. They also provided pool tables, bowling alleys, facilities for other proper indoor games and apparatus for outdoor sports and exercise. They provided well-equipped gymnasiums. 4 They also provided a room that exclusively was used for the sale of beer and light wines.5 This was

where a serious problem developed causing the Congress to kick the traders off post.

4. During the build up for the Spanish-American War, it was felt that Soldiers grossly misused the drinking rooms provided by the traders and Congress decided to get rid of the traders. The post exchange was established in 1895. The exchange mirrored the services provided by the traders and was financially supported by the US government with one exception. The sale or use of ardent spirits in any branch of the exchange was strictly prohibited. The commander could and did allow beer and light wines to be sold at the other facilities.6 The bottom line was the government finally recognized the recreational needs of the troops and provided money to address them.

5. By the summer and early fall of 1902, George S. Patton, Jr., soon to be 17 years old decided he wished to become a Soldier. Given the social prominence of the Patton family, enlistment in the Army was out of the question. The only acceptable career was the honorable profession of Regular Army Officer. The best road to that goal was an education at the Military Academy at West Point, for graduation meant immediate entrance into the Regular Army as a second lieutenant. 7 The only problem was it was difficult to gain admission to West Point. Entrance requirements were rigorously prescribed by law. The student body was extremely small, but there was a way to get there

6. Each US Member of Congress was entitled to have one cadet from his district at the Academy at any given time. In 1902, Patton's father wrote a letter to Senator Thomas R. Bard, Senator from Southern California, requesting he considers appointing Patton to West Point. 8 A pause here is taken to show Senator Bard's important impact on the Armed Forces Sports Program. At Port Hueneme Naval Base, home of the Seabees, Senator Bard's home, Bard Mansion, serves as the Officers Club on base. Port Hueneme has hosted several Armed Forces Championships in the past few years and Bard's Mansion has served as the site of most of the organizational meetings for these championships. Port Hueneme also served as the site of the Conseil International du Sport Militaire(CISM) Village at the 1984 Olympics held at Los Angeles, CA.

7. In 1903 Senator Bard was constantly provided letters of recommendations for Patton to enter West Point, but he dragged the appointment process out and Mr. Patton elected to send Patton to VMI with hope he would eventually be appointed to West Point. On March 3, 1904, Senator Bard telegraphed Mr. Patton that George would be nominated to West Point.

8. During his career at West Point(1904-1909), Patton excelled in the sports of football, fencing, athletics and shooting. These activities would later define his time as an athlete at West Point. He graduated June 11, 1909.

9. His first posting after graduation was at Fort Sheridan. His time while there was uneventful as far as sports were concerned. His next posting was to Fort Myer, VA. Patton had hardly mastered the duties of his new job as a quartermaster when he learned that he was being considered for a most interesting detail. The Fifth Olympic Games were to be held that summer in Stockholm, Sweden and he was being talked about as the Army's representative in the Modern Pentathlon. Intended to test the fitness of the man at arms, the pentathlon consisted of five events: (1) shooting a pistol at 25 meters (2) swimming a distance of 300 meters (3) fencing with the dueling sword (4) riding a steeplechase for 5000 meters and (5) running a cross-country foot race of 4000 meters. The competition seemed made to order for Patton. He was an expert pistol shot, he had done long-distance swimming as a young man, he had been an enthusiastic swordsman and he had been a runner in track meets at West Point. Learning on May 10 that the preliminary decision had been made in his favor, he started training at once for there was very little time to prepare for competition.

10. The competition for modern pentathlon started July 7 with shooting. Of the 68 competitors entered, 42 actually started and Patton placed fifth amongst them.

11. During the early part of America's participation in W.W.I, athletics were largely under the control and supervision of the YMCA whose athletic director did much toward establishing the firm foundation for future development of all types of sports and games in the American Expeditionary Forces(AEF) and among troops in the US.

12. On December 29, 1918, General John J. Pershing issued the first General Order(#241) relating to sports in the US Army. General Pershing was the commander of the AEF and this was about six months prior to the start of the Inter-Allied Games that were to be conducted in Paris, France 22 June - 6 July 1919. The purpose of the order was to direct the attention of all concerned to the importance of encouraging the development of general and competitive athletics and all kinds of appropriate entertainment, for the purpose of keeping up the morale, fostering and developing organization esprit de corps and improving the physical fitness of the Army. The order directed competition in the AEF leading to championships in track & field, baseball, football, basketball, tennis, boxing and wrestling. The publication of GO #241 established a cooperative arrangement between the Army and the YMCA.

13. The Inter-Allied Games signaled to a vast number of Soldiers of the various armies of the allies the end of the Great War and the beginning of a greater and more hopeful peace than the world had yet known.

14. On April 18, 1918, America being in the World War and having a rapidly expanding army in Europe, Mr. Elwood Brown, physical director of the YMCA, requested war service and was brought to France as one of the YMCA athletic directors. At that time little had been done in the way of organizing athletic relaxation among the troops resting near the front or waiting to go in the line, chiefly because of demands which seemed more pressing for work in other lines. But with this physical director in place came wide experience in organizing, full knowledge of the psychology of sports and a vision of bringing peoples together in friendship upon the field of sport. Becoming a field secretary, Mr. Brown began urging in influential quarters more widespread and systematic athletic activity in the Army. 14 There being no difficulty in arousing the interest of General Pershing and securing full cooperation from the Army and the YMCA headquarters, in a comparatively short time the AEF themselves were being fairly well equipped and directed for the enjoyment of the sports in which Americans will always indulge if they are given the opportunity. It is clear Mr. Brown facilitated the issuance of G.O.

15. The eligibility requirement of the Inter-Allied Games, carrying with it the restrictions that the competitors must be men who were still wearing or had worn the military uniform of one of the allied nations brought about the adoption, in practically every instance, of a system of selecting athletes entirely different from that which had been adopted in previous world meets. Since the date of the Games was known only months, instead of years as is usual in the case of great meets, before its actual staging, teams had to be chosen and trained quickly. America practically overcame this handicap by returning to France several athletes who had gone home and by adding to this contingent a number of Army athletes who had never had the opportunity to come overseas during the two years of the US participation in the war.

16. The invitation to participate in the Inter-Allied Games was issued by General Pershing, as commander - in - chief (CINC) of the AEF, on January 19, 1919, less than five and a half months before the opening of the events themselves. There were 29 nations receiving the invitation. Eighteen accepted, the other countries finding themselves forced to decline the invitation owing to the fact that they had a very small number of men in France and the date set for the games was too near to allow time for training and transporting others or for the reason that their troops had already left French soil and were being demobilized at home.

Pick up the April 5 issue to read the rest of your Army history.



# Population growth cause of changes

“That means we’re going to more than double the number of students we serve over the next three years,” said Boyle.

He pointed out while no scenario exists that would please every family member, there are some advantages to the changes.

Boyle said the different maturity levels of middle and high school students make the separation a bonus for both groups.

He also explained that moving the middle school students to Grafenwoehr would decrease the number of students at VMHS, allowing more space for ongoing renovation and construction.

With the construction taking place near the site of the Grafenwoehr temporary middle school, Boyle said he feels “much more confident with our sixth through eighth graders in the area, rather than our fourth through sixth graders.”

Boyle also talked about the construction of the Netzaberg Housing Area, where the temporary middle school will permanently relocate to

in 2008.

Once construction of the news housing area is complete, Boyle said the temporary middle school will be removed, and the permanent middle school will open in the Netzaberg community.

Netzaberg will be located on the hill near the Grafenwoehr observation post, and will be a “brand new community with about 830 homes,” said Boyle.

The new housing area will have a church, youth services facility, child development center, shoppette, gymnasium, and gas station.

After giving an overview of the changes, Boyle opened the floor for questions.

In response to one parent’s question, Boyle explained that the middle school students would still be offered courses that were available to them at the high school, specifically math and foreign languages.

“Educationally, they will be getting the same courses,” said Steve Vojtecky, the garrison

school liaison officer. “Middle school students can still take high school classes and get credit for them.”

And for some, said Boyle, the sports program may be even better because students won’t have to share gym space with a cafeteria.

The temporary school cafeteria will be housed in what used to be the Grafenwoehr food court, and the gym will be located in a former gym facility next to the school.

School registration for the 2006-2007 school year will take place April 28.

“It’s very important that parents register their kids on this date,” said Vojtecky.

“This is very important. We’ve got a lot of people arriving to this area very soon, and we need to make sure we’ve got adequate staffing,” he said. ““We don’t want to find out on (the first day of school) how many teachers we need. If you’re here now and you’re looking at remaining in this are, we need to know about it.”

# March 29 job fair levels playing field for unemployed

“If you say you balanced your cash register or you were responsible for a certain amount of money, you become more specific,” said Roberts, “and it becomes a lot easier for a person reading your resume to get a good idea of your qualifications.”

The job fair, she said, is a good opportunity for job seekers to level the playing field because of the unique challenges of finding a job in Europe. One advantage is that participants can meet with several potential employers at one time and in one place.

“It is lot different finding a job in Europe than it is finding one in the States,” said Roberts. “In the States you can open a Sunday newspaper and send out your resume, and you will probably hear back from those employers. Over here it is not that simple.”

Resume writing and Resumix classes are held Vilseck on Tuesdays, and in Grafenwoehr on Thursdays. For more information, call DSN 476-2650 or 475-8371 or CIV 09662-83-2650 or 09662-83-8371.

# Contact veterinarian if dead birds found

It requires very close contact with ill or dead birds and their waste products or secretions.

Just because it isn’t a threat now doesn’t mean we should not take precautions to prevent it in the future. Avoid contact with “wild things with wings” (wild fowl such as swans, geese, birds, etc.).

If you come upon a dead bird, the best thing to do is leave it there. Call the installation veterinarian if you are suspicious of the cause of death.

**If you find a dead bird or waterfowl on a U.S. military installations or housing area:**

Notify the installation veterinarian office. Practice good sanitary hygiene: don’t handle dead birds found outdoors. Don’t allow your pets or children to be exposed to dead birds or waterfowl. Veterinary officials will advise you on safe disposal practices in very low-risk situations. If appropriate, they will contact the proper installation support personnel or local national authorities for disposal of dead birds.

**If you find a sick or injured bird:** Notify the

installation veterinarian if sick or injured water fowl are found on a military installation or housing area. The veterinarian will determine the proper course of action, considering the location, circumstances, and situation.

**Web sites for further information:**  
U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine:  
<http://chppm-www.apgea.army.mil/>  
(Contains links to avian flu information, as well as other health topics. Some materials are suitable for small-unit training.)  
World Health Organization:  
[http://www.who.int/csr/disease/avian\\_influenza/en/](http://www.who.int/csr/disease/avian_influenza/en/)  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/avian/index.htm>

**How to keep domestic cats and dogs safe:**

There are 101 good reasons to keep your pet cat indoors. One more good reason is to keep them from being exposed to infected birds. This is also a good reason to keep your dogs on a leash.

**About dead bird testing:** Do not take dead or sick birds to the installation authorities or the installation veterinarians to test for avian flu. Wherever you live in Europe, your host nation country will test dead birds for avian flu if necessary. It has important agricultural and economic implications for their economies. Military veterinarians will coordinate, when appropriate, with host nation authorities for testing of birds found on U.S. forces installations.

To contact a veterinary office in Europe, call your local operator for directory assistance. You can also find your installation veterinarian from the 100th Med. Det. entry on the 30th Medical Brigade Website at <http://www.30thmed.army.mil/>.

# Newest staff member former Army journalist

She has earned numerous Army and civilian journalism awards.

She is a movie buff who likes to read and travel. Foss spent her junior year in 1987 as an international exchange student in Aachen, Germany, with the Education Foundation for Foreign Study.

Foss and husband Jeremy have three kids–15-year-old Matt, 7-year-old Leanne, and 3-year-old Cody.

# AFN-Bavaria broadcast delays

I ask for your patience as we do this, as it takes time to accomplish. I also realize that the phone number is frequently busy. We are exploring whether or not we can get another phone line. If we do, we will inform the community.

We believe that we using several ways (TV, radio, phone) to reach out to our families and inform them of school delays and closures. If there are families who do not have the means to obtain this information, we will need to explore other ways of getting the information to them.

**Gate 1 Activity.** This message is directed at community members (generally single Soldiers) who use Gate 1 Grafenwoehr to go to and from clubs/ bars normally on Friday and Saturday night.

The use of the gate is convenient because it gets Soldiers who walk to the clubs (and walking is a good thing because it cuts down on the number of DUIs) there quickly and conveniently, and supports the business of our local Grafenwoehr community. However, not every Soldier is mature enough to use this access to the clubs. I am specifically speaking to those who leave their empty containers in the street, along the fence, in the school yard or, in the case of this past weekend, actually fall through the fence and destroy it.

I’m asking all personnel who use this area to walk to the clubs to police up after themselves. Monitor your buddy, take your trash with you instead of leaving it next to the school or in families’yards.

We will continue to monitor this. If this inappropriate behavior continues, we will have to consider more drastic steps to ensure compliance. We shouldn’t have to do that. People live here. Respect their privacy, quiet hours, yards, and clean up after yourselves.

**Welcome home Fest.** I’ll finish this column with a note about the March 29 Welcome Home fest at Vilseck’s airfield hangar. This will be a great event with rides, food, and family fun. There will also be a lot of entertainment to including several bands and USO-sponsored big name entertainment. I have been advised that some of the music material later in the evening may not be appropriate for all ages so I ask families to use their best judgment when attending the event and monitor their children.

Lastly, spring is just around the corner with summer and the influx of new Soldiers rapidly approaching. We continue to work to make this area the best place to live and work in Germany.

# Statistics show 10 percent of vets disabled

“We touch between 5,000 and 6,000 veterans a month,” Denniston noted. “Most of those are people who call in or come and visit. We don’t have the resources to track how many we actually help.”

VA statistics show that 10 percent of the 23 million veterans in the United States are service-disabled. About 3.2 million veteran-owned businesses represent 14 percent of all businesses, according to the 2002 Census. VA officials said the 1992 Census reported that there were 4.2 to 5.5 million veteran business owners.

Denniston said Veterans Affairs is trying to lead the way in attaining the 3-percent goal.

“This year we’re over 2 percent, one of the few agencies that did that,” he said. “We know it’s because of the efforts of the folks in the Center for Veterans Enterprise.”

Denniston said the Defense Department is below 1 percent, but that all of the services are trending upward. For example, he said, last year the Navy awarded \$1 billion to veteran-owned small businesses.

“So the trends are going in the right direction, and we have a very aggressive outreach program with all the services, but particularly with the Army and Air Force,” he said. “We’ve actually gone around the country and trained their contracting officers about the program. We also teach service-disabled veterans how to do business with the military services.”

Veterans, including service-disabled veterans, often go into businesses based on expertise they gained in the military, Denniston said.The center’s staff of 15 people fans out across the coun-

try to spread the word to active duty personnel and members of the National Guard and Reserve. “Our goal is to make sure that when a veteran leaves the military, they know about the Center for Veterans Enterprise and the services we provide,” Denniston said. “What’s interesting is that the vast majority of veterans that come to us are people that have been out of the military between seven and 15 years. They’ve made the successful transition from military to civilian life, and now they want to start a small business.”

Denniston said that’s to be expected. “We don’t get a lot of people right out the military who want to start a business,” he noted. “Part of that is the majority of the military, particularly the Guard and Reserve, are married and need to provide for their families. The other thing is we don’t pay our veterans a lot when they’re on active duty, so most veterans don’t have a nest egg. They need to build up that nest egg in the civilian world and then come to us for entrepreneurial assistance.”

The center has arranged discounts for veterans who want to get into franchise businesses. “We have 150 franchisers who offer a benefit to veterans that they don’t offer to non-veterans,” Denniston said. “Some discount fees, some have better financing, some have financing at lower rates, some offer more management and technical assistance.”

Providing something extra for veterans is a requirement for franchisers who want to work through the center’s program, Denniston said. “When we established the program,” he

explained, “we said, ‘We don’t care what kind of benefits you offer veterans, but you need to offer something that you don’t offer to non-veterans.’ In two years, we’ve put more than 300 veterans in business through franchising.”

Denniston said the program is geared toward franchises with start-up costs of less than \$100,000, citing the issue of veterans not having a lot of money. “They’re mostly service-oriented franchises, like home repair services, real estate appraisal services, rug cleaning, nursery care,” he said. “Now we have some of the fast food restaurants. Our 100th franchiser was Exxon-Mobil for their gas stations and On-the-Run stores.”

Danny M. Cobb, who started his business, Meridian Solutions, a month ago in Frederick, Md., attended the open house seeking ways to take advantage of the services available for disabled veterans.

Cobb, a former Marine corporal who joined the Corps in 1977 and was discharged in 1981, said he was looking for networking to get his name and his company’s name better exposure. He was seeking assistance in marketing and the names and contact information for contracting officers from various agencies. Denniston said the center can help veterans no matter where they live. “We can assist you in finding local resources that can help you whether you need a business plan, a loan from a bank, marketing assistance,” he said. “Those are the types of networks we’ve established around the country in all 50 states and Puerto Rico to help veterans who want to start small businesses.”

# Visions program categories include poetry, music

Dickson, who is leaving the area early next year, hopes the program will outlast her assignment here.

“I hope this program continues for the children in the high school and middle school,” she said. “The community will support it. I am hoping someone will step up and help.”

2006 Winners:

High School Poetry Category:

1st Place: TIERRA MCLEOD

2nd Place: CHRISTINA HOLLAND

High School Music Category:

1st Place: CHRISTINA HOLLAND

Middle School Music Category:

1st Place: QUARTNEY COHEN

2nd Place: SHANICE HOLT

Middle School Art Category:

1st Place: JILANDRE STEWART

2nd Place: MARISSA ALLEN

3rd Place: GABRIELLE OWENS

Honorable Mention in Art: MATTHEW FINLEY

ELISA CAFFREY

High School Art Category:

1st Place: MICHAEL EMANUS

2nd Place: BARRY BENJAMIN

3rd Place: RALF SCHOPF

Honorable Mention in Art: AARON JACKSON

DAVID TATE

KEVIN JORDAN

JOSE EMMANUEL ROJO

DANIEL KAMP

REBECCA WOMACK

SEAN ANDERSON

CHRISTOPHER JACKSON

SELINA DORHNEIM

GABRIEL LEATHERS

ANGELICA MCKININIS

SIMONA WOMACK

TOBERT WRIGHT

JULIES ALLEN

NICOLE ARGUETA

CARRIE ANDERSON

PAUL CRUZ

Middle School STEP Category:

1st Place: DIAMOND SHAW

2nd Place: MARIAH TOLBERT

3rd Place: QUARTNEY COHEN

Honorable Mention in Art: SHANICE HOLT

ARIEL LAVEL

ORACLE Category:

1st Place: CHRISTINE HOLLAND